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TENNESSEE COUNTY HISTORY SERIES

# Sequatchie County



by Henry R. Camp

Robert B. Jones

*Editor*



MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

*Memphis, Tennessee*

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Maps prepared by MSU Cartographic Services Laboratory

Manufactured in the United States of America

Designed by Gary G. Gore

ISBN 0-87870-166-4

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
BOBBIE RUTH CAMP

my mother, whom I never knew  
LAWRENCE AND MYRTLE CAMP

My grandparents  
who reared me in love because of love  
and taught me to respect the past

AND DEDICATED TO

EDNA JACKSON

who taught me a  
knowledge and love of the past,

DR. JAMES A. WARD AND DR. JAMES W. LIVINGOOD  
who broadened that knowledge

of the past,

MY STUDENTS AT

SEQUATCHIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Past and present

who have challenged and encouraged  
me in my desire to teach about the past,

NATALIE ANN CAMP

my darling wife

who gave me the inspiration to complete this task  
and has given me hope for the future

## Preface

The major problem in composing a history of Sequatchie County was the limited resources that were available. Unlike many larger counties, very little had been written about the county's history. On the surface this might lead one to believe that there was little of importance that occurred here. A conclusion of this nature, however, would be a grave mistake. Oftentimes we neglect a great deal of "real" history because we are too busy searching for history in the "grand" scale, such as major battles in wars or some other calamities. Most history books are composed of history in the grand scale and real history is sometimes forgotten.

This is the history of a small county where little of a historical significance on the grand scale has ever occurred. It is the history of the common people and their struggles to survive and better their lives. This is the type of history that everyone should be able to identify with because this is the type of history from which most of us sprang.

I have been a resident of Sequatchie County all of my life and at one time I thought that Sequatchie County was a rather dull place because there was no real history here. I was blind to the truth because I was looking for history on the grand scale. There is much history here in how the county was formed, in the beauty of the area, of the struggles to earn a living working in the coal mines, and of the day-to-day striving for a better life. This is the bone and sinew of the people's history, and I hope that through the pages of this book I can convey this to all who read it.

## *Acknowledgements*

The writing of history is never an easy task and it always requires the help of many people. I wish to express my personal gratitude and heartfelt thanks to each and every one who has helped make the completion of this book possible. The contributions of many should be cited by name. Along with many other residents of Sequatchie County, the following have helped me tremendously in many varied ways: Glenn Barker, Grady Barker, Ivan Condra, Steve Condra of Signal Mountain, Sara Goins, Larry Hixson, Fred Land, Jess Layne, Crayton Mosley, Elizabeth Robnett, Briggs Smith, T. J. Walling, W. B. Whitlow, and Miss Betty Worley of the Sequatchie County Public Library.

I wish to acknowledge the special aid of the fine staff of the Local History Division of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library.

Special thanks are also in order to the late J. Pope Dyer, Douglas Foster, Mrs. Edna Jackson, Mrs. Ora Layne, Dr. James W. Livingood, Mrs. Grace Patton, J. Leonard Raulston, and others whose works have contributed in giving this book whatever merit it may have.

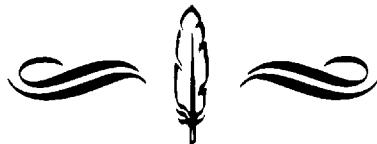
My heartfelt gratitude is also extended to Harry Rowland, Principal of Sequatchie County High School, Dr. James A. Livingood, and Dr. James A. Ward for their confidence in me.

The editors of Memphis State University Press have surely earned my thanks: J. Ralph Randolph, for his encouragement and help; Dr. Robert B. Jones for his reading of the manuscript and his critical assessment; and Nancy Hurley, for her copyediting of the manuscript and her letters of encouragement.

Many of my family members have been of tremendous aid as they have stood by me and encouraged me along the way when it looked like I might falter. Special thanks are in order to Carson Camp, my cousin, for his permission to use the photographs in this book, and to my father, the late Forrest H. Camp, and step-

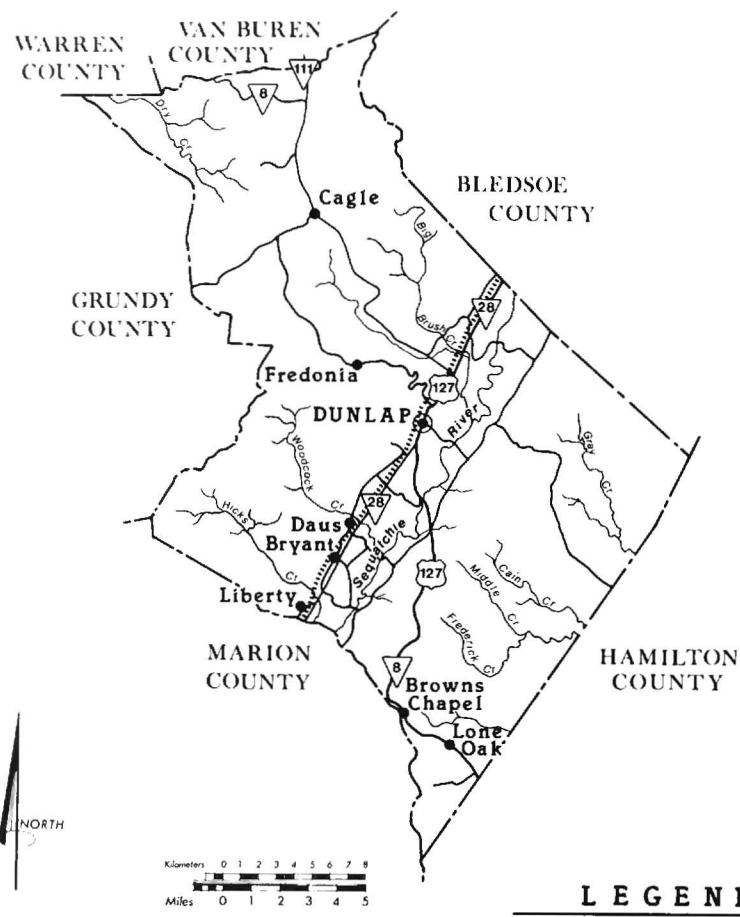
mother, Eloise Camp, for their encouragement. I also extend my thanks and gratitude to my beautiful wife, Natalie Ann, for her love, support, critical reading, and sometimes needling that have helped complete this work. Above all I wish to thank my mother-in-law, Patricia Jenkins, for her encouragement and for the many long hours of typing this work. Without her help, I could not have completed the manuscript.

Henry Ray Camp  
Dunlap, Tennessee



# S

EQ U A T C H I E County lies in the physiographic region of Tennessee known as the Cumberland Plateau which is a relatively flat-topped tableland whose surface is about 1000 feet above the bordering regions to the east and west. The most striking geological feature of the plateau is the Sequatchie anticline which is believed to be one of the largest of its type known in the world. An anticline is a system of roughly parallel folds in stratified rock in which the folds slope downward from a crest in opposite directions. The Sequatchie Valley corresponds in size to the anticline and extends like a great cove from the Tennessee River at Guntersville, Alabama, northward to the Crab Orchard Mountains halfway across the state of Tennessee . The Sequatchie Valley offers striking visual contrast with its extremely straight and steep valley walls and escarpment and its relatively flat or rolling valley floor. The floor of the valley lies about 1000 feet below the surface of the adjoining plateau and averages about five miles in width. Only the portion of the cove within Tennessee which is drained by the Sequatchie River is known as the Sequatchie Valley. The continuation of the cove into Alabama is known as Brown's Valley. The valley is underlain by limestones of ordovician age. The Sequatchie Valley has a relatively high agricultural



#### LEGEND



- COUNTY SEAT
- Other Communities
- Governmental Land Uses
- Interstate Route
- Federal Route
- △ State Route
- Local Route
- ..... RAIL SERVICE
- Major Streams
- Minor Streams

productivity because of the soils being more fertile than soils on the sandstone caprock.

On the eastern side of Sequatchie Valley lies a bold, rocky, cliff-lined rampart known as Walden Ridge. That name is often used to designate as well the mountain that runs almost due north from the Tennessee River in northern Alabama to the head of the Sequatchie Valley, where it joins the Cumberland Mountains to form the Cumberland Plateau. With the exception of a few deep gorges, the Plateau is an area of relatively level tableland, varying in height from 1800 to 2200 feet above sea level and rising 1000 to 1400 feet from the surrounding valley. Some of the area lies in Sequatchie County as well as neighboring Marion and Hamilton counties.

The county lies in the central division of Tennessee and has an area of 273 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Bledsoe County, on the east by Hamilton County, on the south by Marion County and on the west by Grundy and Van Buren counties. The county thus lies in the very heart of the beautiful Sequatchie Valley, a region of breathtaking beauty that has few matches throughout the world.

The major river in both the valley and the county is the Sequatchie River, which was referred to as Crow Creek on a map published in 1793 for pioneer settler Daniel Smith, and as the Ocoee River in some other early maps and documents. This mountain stream flows through about 70 miles of the valley and drains an area of 605 square miles. Many creeks and small branches from the numerous caves and springs empty their waters into the Sequatchie. Some of these streams within Sequatchie County are Brush Creek, Coops Creek, Hicks Creek, and Woodcock Creek. The source of the Sequatchie River is in Grassy Cove, a geologically depressed area about five miles long and two miles wide located in nearby Cumberland County. Here the eroding process that shaped the Sequatchie Valley is still at work, cutting away the sandstone cover. This basin or natural bowl is 500 feet below the Cumberland Plateau and is separated from the valley by the Bear Den, Brady, and Hinch mountains.

In the early days of white settlement many people had small

gristmills operated by water power. In the season when water was low the gristmills in the upper Sequatchie Valley had to depend on water discharged from Stratton's mill pond in Grassy Cove. According to folklore, the millers occasionally had to send word over the mountains into the cove to send a few buckets of water over the dam so they could grind.

The United States Geological Survey and TVA finally decided to test this old legend. In 1961 they placed some brightly painted chips and a harmless dye into the various springs in Grassy Cove at hourly intervals. These springs all flow into one stream, Cove Creek, which empties into a large cave. The stream reappears about half a mile away in another cave before disappearing again. The engineers watched for six days until the chips and dye finally appeared in the gushing spring at the head of Sequatchie Valley where the Sequatchie River begins. This proved beyond any doubt that the river actually began in Grassy Cove and was probably slowed in a pool or series of pools hidden far beneath the mountain.

The soil of Sequatchie County is like that of the surrounding valley in that it is very fertile and well watered by many streams. The soil is of the Waynesboro-Cumberland-Sequatchie Association. The soils developed in this association usually consist of a mixture of materials derived from limestone, sometimes with lesser amounts of sandstone and shale. This association has deep soils that are clay and red in color, and in some areas may extend to depths of more than ten feet. The valley floor is gently rolling but is often interrupted by groups of low, forested ridges in some areas, such as Barker's Ridge. The plateau surface and slopes of Walden Ridge, Fredonia Mountain, Cagle Mountain, Lewis Chapel Mountain, and Daus Mountain have only a thin layer of rather poor soil that is not as well suited for farming.

Many woodlands and forests still cover about 75 percent of the total watershed area. Annual average precipitation for the county is 64.4 inches a year, compared to a state average of 40-50 inches, but there is a distribution problem that means there are about 30 drought days in an average crop season. The annual average snowfall for the county is 5.7 inches a year and the

annual average temperature is 57.1° with the monthly average temperature for January being 43.2° (state average of 38°F.) and for July being 74.6°F. (state average, 78°). Prevailing winds are generally from the southwest and the number of days between killing frosts is usually about 210. The major problem with the climate is the high humidity that makes the summer heat sometimes almost unbearable.

There is little doubt that Sequatchie County's greatest untapped natural resource is its beauty since it rests in the center of the lovely Sequatchie Valley. The view from either above the valley near the edge of an escarpment on Signal Mountain or from the valley looking upward toward the mesalike mountains above is so astounding that one's breath is almost taken away by it. This natural beauty, that matches any throughout the world, seems to be either taken for granted or jealously guarded by the inhabitants of the county. The beauty of the valley could definitely be used to draw tourists into Sequatchie County, thus bringing added dollars to a very sluggish economy.

The forests are mainly hardwoods such as oak, maple, and poplar, but there are also many pines and cedars that provide a year-long background of green. In the spring the many red-buds, dogwoods, and other flowering trees explode in colors that bring the valley to life again after a winter of rest and solitude. Late in October or early in November the deciduous trees, with their brilliant colors of yellow, red, and brown, offer their good-bye to the summer and then go to their rest waiting for their reawakening the following spring.

The major minerals found in Sequatchie County are coal, limestone and sand, with coal being the most important. With the exception of the valley floor, coal seams can be found throughout the county. Many of them are very thick and rather easily mined by either surface or underground mining operations. A recent geological report has shown that the plateau area of the county rests on a virtual mountain of coal which may someday prove an economic boon to the county. The coal is of the Pennsylvanian Geologic Age interbedded with clays, shales, siltstones, sandstones, and conglomerates. The coal fields of

Sequatchie County are part of the vast Appalachian fields that extend from Pennsylvania into Alabama. Plateau coal is of bituminous rank and mostly medium to high-volatile, with heating values of 11,000 to 14,000 BTUs. Most of the coal is of coking quality, which at one time led to a major mining and coking operation in Sequatchie County.

Up to the early 1950s underground mining was predominant. There were many small mines that were only operated occasionally as farmers on the mountains could supplement their income by mining and trucking coal directly to customers during the winter months. Operations such as these were often called "snowbird mines" and were operated by families using pick and shovel. Sequatchie County's mountains are dotted with such mining operations. By the late 1960s and early 1970s coal production by surface mining had exceeded that of underground mines. This strip-mining left thousands of acres of scarred land to be restored only by nature. Most of this destruction occurred prior to the enactment of laws requiring land reclamation. These areas of unreclaimed strip mines are known as "orphan mines." On Cagle Mountain many of these orphan mines have either filled with water or have been reclaimed by the natural growth of pines and other trees. As demand for energy grows in the United States and abroad, the coal of the Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie County will become more important. For example, plateau coal is already being exported to Japan.

### Pre-Columbian Settlement

Human beginnings in what is now Sequatchie County go far back into the dark recesses of time itself, long before the time of the Cherokee, Creek, and Shawnee. Information concerning these early inhabitants is very scanty and often inaccurate. Much of the available information comes from excavations which have rendered up arrowheads, potsherds, stone weapons, ornaments, and animal and human bones. One of these major sites of excavation within the Sequatchie Valley was Russell Cave in Alabama. There is little doubt that the human inhabitants of this

cave well represent the people who roamed over what is now called Sequatchie County. Dr. Carl F. Miller of the Smithsonian Institution was named as a leader of an expedition to explore Russell Cave between 1953 and 1955. At a depth of 23 feet Miller and his colleagues discovered a small pocket of charcoal from an ancient hearth. According to radiocarbon tests, this placed man in the Sequatchie Valley about 9000 years ago.

These earliest inhabitants of Sequatchie Valley are known as Archaic Indians. It seems that they did not know of soil cultivation but lived by hunting and gathering. Some of the favorite game of the Archaic Indian was deer, turkey, squirrel, gray fox, skunk, bobcat, raccoon, and bear. Nothing was wasted from the hunt. The hunter's family roasted or stewed the meat by dropping heated rocks into vessels of skin or bark. Shelter and clothing were made from the skins of animals, and tools and fish hooks were fashioned from the bones. The major weapon was a short spear tipped with a stone point hurled by an atlatl, or spear-thrower. The atlatl lengthened the range and velocity of the short spear.

The next group of inhabitants that followed Archaic man is known as the Early Woodland Indians. They appeared as early as 500 BC and persisted until about 1000 AD. These Indians perfected the use of the bow and arrow, the grindstone, and other skills such as pottery making at which they became adept. There is some evidence to support the belief that the Woodland Indians also cultivated corn. Their houses were circular huts made by sticking small saplings into the ground and bending them over to form a dome-shaped framework often called a "wigwam."

As the Woodland culture matured the Indians developed a considerable interest in the afterlife, revealed in their treatment of the dead. They built burial mounds of earth and placed various articles alongside the bodies which might be helpful in the afterlife. These mounds are comparatively small in size, usually about 50 feet in diameter and about 10 feet in height. Still they often contain many graves. The area of the Sequatchie Valley that is now Sequatchie County was home for many of these Woodland Indians. Even though many of their mounds have

been destroyed by farming, road construction, and unskilled diggers, several still dot the landscape today.

The third major Indian culture to occupy the area of Sequatchie County and the last before the white man arrived was the Mississippian. These Indians lived in permanent villages and are noted for the construction of temple mounds. The Mississippians practiced agriculture, with corn as their principal crop, along with squash, beans, and pumpkins supplemented by berries, nuts, fruit and wild plants. The Indians who had occupied this area for about 500 years when the first Europeans arrived were of the late Mississippian culture.

### Early European Exploration

Probably the first Europeans to view the Sequatchie Valley and no doubt pass through what is now Sequatchie County were with the expedition led by the Spanish Conquistador, Hernando De Soto (1539-1541). De Soto was fresh from the Spanish conquest of the Incas of Peru where he had served as a lieutenant under Francisco Pizarro. This campaign had only intensified his thirst for gold and riches. He was at this time governor of Cuba and had received permission to explore Florida, which far exceeded the present day state and included almost all of the southeastern United States. Traveling with De Soto were about 700 men, including priests, horsemen, and foot-soldiers; a large number of pigs were driven in front of the expedition to provide food along the way. They landed on the Florida Peninsula the last of May 1539, at what they called Bay of the Holy Spirit (Tampa Bay), and from there they traveled across terrible cypress swamps, desolate plains, and savannahs. Quickly their food grew scarce and from village to village the Indians became more openly hostile. By this time the Indians were aware of the white man's lust for gold and they kept telling the Spaniards that it was at the next village that they would find "Cibola." The Spaniards, with their armor, horses, metal weapons, and gunpowder, easily overawed the Indians, but the deeper they thrust into the continent the more the long journey began to exact its deadly toll. They

moved from present day Florida to Georgia, South Carolina, and then into Tennessee. It was in Tennessee at the Creek town of Chiaha (thought to be Burns Island in the Tennessee River) that the De Soto expedition rested a month to refresh their horses. The expedition camped there from June 5 to 28, 1540, while two scouts were sent out in search of gold.

From Chiaha the De Soto party possibly continued on up the Sequatchie Valley and then west to the Mississippi River. It was on this expedition that De Soto died of a fever and was buried in the Mississippi in his suit of golden armor.

Another Spanish expedition, that of Juan Pardo (1566–1567), followed De Soto's route a few years later. Pardo's men reached Chiaha or Lameco and there they constructed a fort they called Santa Helena (St. Elena). Pardo recorded, "all this land is very good; in Lameco it is the opinion of all of us that we should make a fort so that if His Majesty is pleased to pursue the exploit he might find that part under control." Juan de la Vandera, who was a member of the expedition, wrote of Chiaha that it was a rich broad land surrounded by pretty rivers around which, at one to three leagues more or less, were many small towns all surrounded by rivers. He went on to record that there were leagues of very fine land, with many grapes and medlar (pear) trees, and in fact "it is an angelic land." Pardo pinpointed Chiaha as being at the "end of the Sierra" and he stated that they had found a mountainous area three days travel to the West. When he departed, Pardo left a corporal and 30 soldiers with food and ammunition to garrison Fort Santa Helena, which was later abandoned and destroyed by the Indians. So, for a brief moment in history the flag of the great Spanish empire may have flown over what is now Sequatchie County.

### Cherokees

After the expeditions of De Soto and Pardo there were no more European contacts with the Indians for many years. The Indians that came to be the dominating force in the region by the early 1700s were the Cherokees, who claimed possession of

the land of Sequatchie. The Cherokee were not unlike other Indians in that they had a deep regard for nature and they lived in close contact with animals and all growing things. Their towns were located at the headwaters of river systems flowing east, west, and south out of the mountains. The entire range of hunting territory claimed by the Cherokees encompassed 40,000 square miles in portions of what is now eight states. The Sequatchie Valley served mainly as a hunting ground, although a few permanent villages were located in the lower part of the valley.

Substantial movements of the white population into the Cherokee lands of Tennessee, or the Overhill country, did not begin until the American Revolution. Judge Richard Henderson, called Carolina Dick by the Cherokee, and his Transylvania Land Company bought an immense tract of land in Kentucky and Tennessee from the Cherokee in 1775 at Sycamore Shoals. However, not all the Cherokee were in agreement. One tall, muscular warrior protested the sale. He told Judge Henderson, "You have bought a fair land, but there is a cloud hanging over it. You will find its settlement dark and bloody." This young warrior's name was to strike terror into the hearts of the white settlers of Tennessee for many years. He was Tsu-gun-sini, or Dragging Canoe, and he was to become the leader of a group of renegade Cherokees called the Chickamaugas. His home was in the Sequatchie Valley, which served as his base for attacks on the white invaders.

The Cherokees were the largest and one of the most important tribes in the entire southeastern United States. They called themselves Ani-Yumoiya or "principal (important) people." They were part of the Iroquios stock. They have been estimated as having, in the early 1700s, a population of about 22,000 in about 80 towns among four large groups. The Upper or Overhill group, living in towns along the little Tennessee, Tellico, and Hiwassee rivers in East Tennessee, was the only group of the four divisions of the tribe that permanently resided in the state. The center of Cherokee settlement was in western North Carolina.

The Cherokees as a group had a principal chief, but the military, political, and religious life was centered in the towns, which

varied in size from a dozen to 200 families. Every major town had a "King" and a "Great War Chief." In the center of each town was the public square, to the west of that was the council house or temple, and gathered around it were the dwelling houses. The dwelling houses were built of upright logs and in the center of the dirt floor was a scooped-out fireplace, flanked by a hearth-stone used for baking corn bread. At one end of the dwelling house were the beds, made of saplings and woven splints. In the cold winter months the families slept in the adjacent "hot house," which was a smaller cone-shaped structure built partly below ground with a dirt floor, but also supplied with beds and a fireplace in which a fire was kept burning all day and banked for the night. These were very similar to the hot houses used by the medicine men for giving "sweat baths" for purification or treating diseases.

The council house usually seated up to 500 and was seven-sided to correspond to the seven clans of the Cherokee Nation: Long Hairs, Wolf, Deer, Bird, Blue, Red Paint, and Wild Potatoes. This house was used for religious rites as well as a public hall for military and civil councils. Within the council house were two concentric series of seven posts each as well as a large central pillar, and seven large pillars outlined the outer walls. Three rows of benches lined the walls with the area near the sacred seventh pillar being reserved for the main officials of whom three had special seats with high backs. The sacred altar, kept perpetually burning except for periodic and ceremonial extinguishing and rekindling, was located in front of the officials' seats and near the central pillar. The council house was described by some Europeans as being very gloomy on the inside with one small door through which only one person could pass at a time, and only one small hole to let the smoke out. Most of the smoke residue settled in the roof.

The family and clan were the basis of Cherokee society. Although descent was on the maternal side, each individual had a close relationship with his father's clan. Ordinarily people were allowed to marry into the clan of their grandparents, but inter-

marriage within the clan was strictly forbidden. Every Cherokee town had members of all seven clans.

The Cherokees were basically farmers but they did depend on hunting and fishing for their meat supply. Their chief crop was corn, to which were dedicated two of the seven major ceremonies, the New Green Corn and the Ripe Corn festivals. Other important crops to the Cherokees were beans, squash, sunflowers, pumpkins, and gourds. Hunting and warfare consumed most of the time of the able-bodied males, so the farming was carried on by the women and old men. The Cherokees even practiced a form of communism by having a communal granary partly supplied by the town's plantation.

Cherokee craft specialties were stamped pottery and skillfully carved stone pipes in the shapes of animals, birds, or people. The Cherokee were also skilled at wood carving, and weaving baskets and mats out of colored strips of cane. They made their clothing of animal skins and turkey feathers with feathers of the most brilliantly colored birds being used for trimmings or head-dresses. Cherokee women wore skirts and shoulder mantels and Cherokee men wore breech cloths and sleeveless shirts. Both men and women wore moccasins made of deerskin. The men's dress was usually rather gaudy and included bracelets, necklaces, and earrings along with the tattooing or painting of the body. The Cherokee were somewhat taller and more robust than their neighboring Indian tribes. They had very coarse black hair but rather light complexions. The men usually shaved their heads or had all their hair plucked out by the roots except for a patch on the back of their head that they ornamented with feathers, beads, wampum, stained deer hairs, and other baubles. The men also slit their ears, stretched them to huge size, and adorned them with pendants and rings. Cherokee women wore their hair long, sometimes to the ground, and ornamented it with various colored ribbons.

Cherokee marriage customs were heavily influenced by their matrilineal system. The intended groom would send the intended bride a piece of venison to show that he would provide an ample food supply and the intended bride would send the

intended groom an ear of corn to show that the crops would be tended and food prepared.

Before the coming of the white man there was plenty of time for fun and games. The most popular game was the "ball play," an ancestor of lacrosse. They also played a game called chunkey and were known to gamble on the results of their games.

Cherokee national government was parallel to the local government. There was a principal chief of the nation who had the aid of seven counselors. The military organization was separate and was headed by the chief warrior whose insignia was a raven's skin hung around his neck. The chief warrior had three assistants and seven counselors. There were minor officials, such as medicine men, whose duties were magic, surgery, spiritualism, and fortune telling. Although males dominated community decision-making, in time of war one female had an important role as "Honored Woman." She had a vote in deciding for or against war and she possessed the power of life or death over captives.

Cherokee religious organization was closely related to the civil government. The medicine men were picked and dedicated in early childhood and were given special training. The "high war priest" performed the usual practices of the holy men. Dietary habits were influenced heavily by superstition. For example, a squaw, before cooking meat, would always throw a piece of fat into the fire to make it merry. This was part of a sacrifice to propitiate the Master of Breath, a Cherokee God. Many herbs and drugs used by the Cherokees were later to prove beneficial to the white man. The Cherokees had a vague notion of creation and belief in life after death. The personal possessions of the deceased were placed in the graves for use on the way to the happy hunting ground. The corpse was placed in a sitting position to assure a good start. The sun, the moon, and the stars were created by "Yowa" and they were the Cherokees' major deities. The moon controlled Cherokee ceremonial life by determining the times of the seven sacred festivals which were held regularly, six of them every year and the seventh every seven years. These festivals were characterized by special dances, ritual bathing, crystal-gazing, extinguishing and rekin-

dling the sacred fire, fasting followed by feasting, and prayers and sacrifices to "Yowa."

Even though tribal life was centered around the rivers and streams, the Cherokees traveled overland much more than is usually assumed. They followed trails first made by animals. The whites later used many of these same trails for their wagon roads, one of which passed through what is now Sequatchie County. This was the Sequatchie Trail which had its northern origin about five miles south of Pikeville. It ran down the valley close to the Sequatchie River, passing the sites of many prehistoric villages, until it reached the Tennessee River. The Sequatchie River was used extensively by the Cherokees and some of their fish traps along it are still visible.

### First Explorers (The Long Hunters)

Middle Tennessee was opened up to explorers and hunters when Dr. Thomas Walker of Virginia explored the area in 1750 by passing through what he called the Cumberland Gap, named in honor of the Duke of Cumberland. After the French and Indian War ceased expeditions such as these increased even in violation of the British Proclamation of 1763 that was meant to keep the colonists on the eastern seaboard, east of the Appalachian Mountains. That proclamation could not hold back those commercial hunters of animal pelts called the Long Hunters.

The Long Hunters were men who crossed the mountains and stayed in the back country for months or even years at a time. They had to be complete masters of their environment and of their knives and guns, or they did not live long. They existed off the land as they roamed far and wide without compass or maps. From the Indians, with whom they often lived, they learned the habits of wildlife as well as many other valuable lessons. They would establish central bases from which they would roam in groups of two or three; after weeks they would return to stash their deerskins, buffalo hides, beaver pelts, and bear furs. Then they would secure fresh supplies and start out again.

Very few of these Long Hunters left any written record or

trace of themselves except maybe their names on creeks, valleys, or ridges. Daniel Boone was no doubt the best known of these Long Hunters, but others were Thomas Sharpe Spencer (Big Foot), Henry Scaggs, Kasper Mansker, Uriah Stone, and the three Bledsoe brothers, Isaac, Abraham, and Anthony. The first Long Hunters on record who entered the Sequatchie Valley were Daniel Smith and Gilbert Imlay who hunted over the area in 1792. As these Long Hunters roamed throughout Middle Tennessee, families began to move into upper East Tennessee to set up permanent settlements; the first of these was the William Bean family in 1769.

As the Revolutionary War broke out the area of what is now Tennessee saw very little fighting, except with the Cherokees, until 1779 when the British brought the war to the South. The fighting went poorly for the southern colonists until the decisive battle of King's Mountain, South Carolina, in 1780. In this battle about 1000 frontiersmen, or overmountain men, crossed the mountains under the leadership of 6'6" William Campbell (the brother-in-law of the fiery Patrick Henry), John Sevier (Nolichucky Jack), and Evan Shelby. At King's Mountain this motley group together with contingents from North Carolina and Virginia, caught and destroyed an equal Tory force led by British Major Patrick Ferguson. After the fighting, these mountain men returned to their homes to protect their families from an impending Indian attack. King's Mountain was the turning point of the Revolutionary War in the South as the Battle of Saratoga was in the North. Some of these men were later granted title to land in the Sequatchie Valley in what was then Bledsoe County. In 1794 John Sevier received a grant from North Carolina for 10,500 acres of what is now Sequatchie County. He held the original title or deed to what is now the city of Dunlap. Some of these veterans of King's Mountain even settled in the Sequatchie Valley.

The Revolutionary War finally ended in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The 13 original colonies then became the United States, with boundaries that stretched from the Great Lakes in the North to Spanish Florida in the South and from the Atlantic Ocean to the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. At

this time Tennessee was part of North Carolina until it was finally ceded to the national government in 1789 when the "Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio" came into existence. This Southwest Territory, as it was usually called, had a governor, William Blount; a secretary, General Daniel Smith; and three judges, David Campbell, John McNairy, and Joseph Anderson. Blount was a very distinguished North Carolinian who had served as a member of the Confederation Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He established the town of Knoxville as his territorial capital, naming it after his friend Henry Knox of Massachusetts. On June 1, 1796, the territory was admitted to the Union as Tennessee, the sixteenth state.

With the admission of Tennessee into the union the pressure on the Cherokees to sell or cede their land increased along with the suggestion of moving the Indians to lands west of the Mississippi River. A treaty that satisfied neither side was signed in 1798 and two others were signed in 1805 and 1806 that surrendered Cherokee claims north of a line from the Duck River in Middle Tennessee eastward to the mouth of the Hiwassee River. This cession of Cherokee lands included the northern half of the Sequatchie Valley. After these cessions, hundreds of new settlers poured into the area and within ten years the white population of Tennessee had increased by 132 percent. The white settlers clamored forcefully for more Cherokee land and because of their insistence the United States appointed Governor Joseph McMinn, Andrew Jackson, and David Meriwether to negotiate a new treaty with the Cherokees. On July 8, 1817, a new treaty was signed ceding another portion of the Sequatchie Valley. This treaty provided that Cherokees living on land ceded or later to be ceded had the right to become United States citizens. It also promised to provide aid for any Cherokee who would move west of the Mississippi River. Two years later, on February 27, 1819, the Calhoun Treaty with the Cherokee Nation was signed granting additional lands to the State of Tennessee; this involved the remaining Cherokee lands in the Sequatchie Valley. The final solution to the Cherokee problem was eventually arrived at with the forced removal of the Cherokee from Tennessee and Geor-

gia to lands west of the Mississippi. Only a few who were able to hide in the Great Smoky Mountains were later allowed to remain on a reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina. The overland march of the Cherokees extracted a high price as 25 percent of those who started died along the way. The Cherokees called this the Trail of Tears. It crossed Walden Ridge and passed through the Sequatchie Valley south of Pikeville and then into the Cumberlands.

### Early Settlers

The area that is now Sequatchie County was at first part of the huge Roane County created by the legislature on November 6, 1801. Kingston, which had become a thriving community mainly as a result of the Walton Road, was named the county seat. The Walton Road had been completed in 1782 and was the first good wagon road from East Tennessee to settlements in the Cumberland Valley or Nashville Basin. It was over 100 miles long and passed just north of what is now Crossville, Tennessee. Traffic along the road was heavy as wagons headed west to the Nashville area, but some families grew tired and looked for good home sites along the way. Some of these families settled in Grassy Cove, just north of the Sequatchie Valley.

In 1805 Amos Griffith, Isaac Standifer, and William Standifer of Virginia set out to find good land to settle. Their trip brought them over the Walton Road and from there into the Sequatchie Valley. They were so impressed with the good soil and natural beauty that they returned the following year with their families and were joined shortly by other families such as the Andersons, Swaffords, Tolletts and Wilsons. Some of these first comers actually settled in lands that belonged to the Cherokees but very little effort was made by the state or national government to remove them. In 1816 James Standifer bought 923 acres of land for which he paid \$1.17 an acre for mountain land and \$2.04 an acre for the valley land.

Amos Griffith settled by a fine spring about six miles north of what is now Dunlap. He married Polly Standifer, the daughter

of his old friend William Standifer, and they had the first white boy born in Sequatchie Valley. His name was William S. Griffith and he was born September 18, 1807. The very first non-Indian child born in the Sequatchie Valley was Louise Anderson, the daughter of John and Betsy McNair Anderson. She was born September 8, 1806.

Bledsoe County was created by the State Legislature on November 30, 1807, as newly acquired land from the Cherokees was separated from Roane County. The boundaries of Bledsoe County were from the Indian line in the South and beyond the Walton Road in the North. At its creation Bledsoe included about one-third of present Sequatchie County and part of Cumberland County. Surveyor Stockley Donelson had opportunities to spot good land and he took advantage of this, acquiring large tracts of land in and around Bledsoe County. By 1810 the new county had a population of 3259. "Old Madison" was selected as the first county seat and the first county court met there in the home of John Thomas. "Old Madison" was located about six miles north of present-day Dunlap and the first court included some settlers who lived in what is now Sequatchie County. A log courthouse, jail, and stocks were built. A short while later the county seat was moved from "Old Madison" to a new county seat more centrally located at Pikeville, possibly named in honor of the famous explorer of the southwest, Zebulon Montgomery Pike. Even with the southern boundary separating Bledsoe County from Indian lands, this did not stop many of the whites from crossing over to the desirable lands of what is now Sequatchie and Marion counties. Some of these were men such as Amos Griffith, Andrew McWilliams, Robert Walker, and Joel Wheeler, to name but a few.

On November 20, 1817, the state legislature created a new county following the cession of lands by the Cherokee. This county was named in honor of the famous "Swamp Fox" of South Carolina, Francis Marion, who led a group of guerrillas that had given the British a hard time during the Revolutionary War. Thus the land that became Marion County was that part of Bledsoe County that had been Cherokee land before. The northern

boundary began around the fork of Brush Creek, just above present-day Dunlap, to the southern boundary at the Tennessee River. So the area that was eventually to become Sequatchie County was partly in Bledsoe County with the larger portion taken from Marion County. The early history of Sequatchie County is therefore closely related to the histories of Bledsoe and Marion counties.

During these years when present-day Sequatchie County was part of Marion and Bledsoe counties, she made a number of important contributions not only to their development, but to the country in the form of some early military and political leaders. One of these men was James Standifer, an early settler and leader of Bledsoe County where he served on the first county court at "Old Madison" and was one of the three county commissioners. Standifer, born April 19, 1779, lived in the community of Mount Airy, which is now in Sequatchie County. He was educated in the so-called common schools and was a graduate of East Tennessee College which later became the University of Tennessee. Standifer was elected to the House of Representatives of the United States from 1823 to 1825 and later as a Whig from 1829 to 1837. The Whigs were that part of the Republican Party that split with the forces of Andrew Jackson. Many Tennesseans felt deserted by Jackson because of his stand in the nullification crisis with South Carolina over states rights and his stand on the tariff. Congressman Standifer died suddenly on his way to Washington on August 30, 1837, and was buried in the Baptist Cemetery in Kingston, Tennessee.

Congressman Standifer was replaced by a fellow Whig from Marion County, who coincidentally also lived in the area that now comprises Sequatchie County. He was Gen. William Stone of Delphi, now known as Daus, Tennessee. He was one of the largest landowners in Marion County with a large number of slaves. He was a member of a prominent family in the United States; his uncle, Thomas Stone, was a member of the First Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence representing Maryland, and his father, Ezekiel Stone, served in the Revolutionary War. William Stone and his wife, Mary Randal Stone, were traveling with a large group of family members

to what is now Cannon County around Stones River. (It is from the Stone family that the river is named.) As this group of settlers was crossing the Sequatchie Valley, the young child of William and Mary Stone became ill. Since it was late fall, they decided to spend the winter in the Sequatchie Valley and then move on to join the rest of the family around Cannon County in the spring. Stone knew he would be trespassing on Cherokee lands, but he only intended to stay for a while until his child was better and to winter his cattle in the vast cane brakes of the area.

He selected the mouth of a large cave at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains as a camp for the winter. This property is now owned by T. J. Walling and one of the original slave cabins on the property still stands. This cave is presently known as Stone's Cave. Some slaves and a few others stayed with William Stone through that winter. The time was no doubt just before the creation of Marion County, because Congress met and made a new treaty with the Cherokee ceding their land in the valley to the whites for settlement. As a result, William Stone became a very large landowner and influential citizen of Marion County.

William Stone's political career was built chiefly on his military achievements. He fought with the militia led by William Henry Harrison in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. This battle led to the destruction of the Indian confederacy created by the great Indian leader, the Shawnee, Tecumseh. Tecumseh was not present at the battle as he was on a trip to the Cherokee in the Sequatchie Valley. The Indians were led by his crazed twin brother, the Prophet, who violated Tecumseh's orders, attacked the militia, and lost the battle. Stone's contribution in this battle was so great that he was awarded a special cane by the Congress of the United States for bravery.

After the Battle of Tippecanoe, William Stone served as a Captain and later Brevet-Brigadier General during the Creek War. He was promoted to this rank for gallantry at the battle of Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, March 17, 1814. This battle was so bloody that it even turned the stomach of Davy Crockett, who served as one of the scouts. Stone went with Gen. Andrew Jackson into New Orleans in the Louisiana campaign and fought in



Stone's Cave, circa 1895. Photo courtesy of T. J. Walling.

the Battle of New Orleans where they handily defeated the British in the largest battle of the War of 1812. This battle was fought two weeks after the treaty of Ghent in Belgium was signed on December 24, 1814, officially ending the war. Communications being what they were, the news of the treaty signing arrived much too late to stop the bloodshed.

On September 14, 1837, General Stone was called upon to serve his country once again. This time it was not in the military

but in the political arena. He was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Congressman James Standifer of Mount Airy, Tennessee. General Stone was elected on his own as a member of Congress in 1838 as a member of the Whig Party. This man, who had served under the military leadership of Gen. Andrew Jackson, was now in the opposite camp politically and served as Jackson's political foe.

Gen. William Stone died in Delphi (Daus) on February 18, 1853, and was buried in the family cemetery where his grave site and marker are still recognizable. He was certainly a very prominent man, not only in the history of what was to become in 1857 Sequatchie County, but also in the history of the United States. He was personally acquainted with all the great men who figured in the affairs of state in the early part of the last century. These years were some of the most important formative years in our history.

Over the years the Stone family's prominence declined and the contributions made by their illustrious forebear, General Stone, were forgotten. Now all that remains is the cave where he and his wife spent the winter, a decaying slave cabin, and parts of a rock wall constructed on his property that now stand as a silent memorial along parts of the old Daus Road. Many people of Sequatchie County drive by this rock wall every day and never realize who built it, just as they drive through this great country and never realize the toil and tears that built it.

### **Establishment of the County**

In the 1850s a number of people residing in the north and northwestern parts of Marion County began to complain about the hardships of traveling from 30 to 50 miles to pay their taxes and to attend court at Jasper, the county seat of Marion County. For many of these people the trip was a full day's journey and for others it took more than a full day to reach Jasper. The trip was long and hard because of the poor conditions of the roads and because of the lack of bridges across many of the streams. There were only one or two bridges across the Sequatchie River.

During rainy periods creeks and streams could not be forded. For example, there were eight creeks that were not fordable during high water between Jasper and Brush Creek, a distance of about 34 miles. People in these areas wanted to create a new county from the northern portion of Marion County and a southern portion of Bledsoe County. However, many of the people living in the southern part of Bledsoe County were not very amenable to this idea. Most were not that far removed from the county seat at Pikeville, the streams presented very few problems for travelers, and the trip could very easily be made in a day. Bledsoe had also lost part of its northern half when Cumberland County was created in 1855 and was in no mood to see another part of its land taken to form a new county.

Nevertheless supporters of the new county continued to point out its advantages until it seemed that the majority was in favor and would give their endorsement. But as Byron Heard, John Rogers, and the other leaders of the movement gained more supporters, they ran into a major obstacle, the 1834 state constitution. The constitution stated that "no part of a county shall be taken off to form a new county or a part thereof, without the consent of a majority of the qualified voters in such part taken off." The constitution also went on to state that for purposes of forming a new county the population should not be reduced to less than 1000 qualified voters or the county reduced to less than 625 square miles. Although it appeared that the creation of a new county was not possible, Bryon Heard, John Rogers, and the other leaders of the movement refused to accept this obstacle to their plan. Heard and Rogers made a trip to the state capitol at Nashville where they conferred with the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Neill S. Brown. They uncovered an interesting loophole in the constitutional provisions: there were no prohibitions for taking parts of counties and joining them to already existing counties. The state legislature was convinced of the validity of this novel approach as a result of some political moves, such as promising to rename Coops Creek Dunlap in order to secure the support of William Dunlap of Knox County, in the creation of the new county.

On February 25, 1856, the legislature passed an act attaching the first and second civil district of Marion County and the tenth civil district of Bledsoe County to Hamilton County, which did not want the additional territory nor did the people of these three districts want to be part of Hamilton County. All the various leaders of the counties understood that the transfer was only temporary as a stratagem to get around the constitutional restrictions and the dissatisfaction of the people of the tenth district of Bledsoe County.

On December 9, 1857, the state legislature of Tennessee passed an act creating Sequatchie County from the three civil districts that had been temporarily attached to Hamilton County. Therefore, Sequatchie County was officially created from Hamilton County, but in reality it was created from southern Bledsoe County and northern Marion County. The northern boundary was from Old Madison (Mt. Airy) and extended to Old Temple (now New Hope). After a motion to name the new county Herndon failed, Sequatchie was chosen in honor of the valley in which it was located. The valley was named for the Cherokee chief, Sequachee, who journeyed to Charleston, South Carolina, in the first half of the eighteenth century to sign a treaty with the colonial government there. The Cherokee Indian agent, Return Jonathan Meigs, referred in his journal for 1802 to a payment of \$5.00 to "Sequachee, a Cherokee Chief." This was no doubt the same Cherokee chief.

It has been a matter of some dispute for years exactly what the word Sequatchie originally meant. Most people of the county have been taught that Sequachee (one of the original spellings) meant "hog trough," which seems rather uncomplimentary to the people of the valley. It supposedly relates to the shape of the valley as it appeared to the Cherokees who lived and hunted here. Historians who have studied the language and lore of the Cherokee disagree over the meaning of the word. John Haywood, a noted historian of the Cherokee, stated that the word *suqua* meant hog and *su-qua-oo-chas-tie* meant opossum. John P. Brown, also a historian of the Cherokee, stated that the equi-



The Joel Wheeler house, oldest house in the valley and site of the first county court.

valent for Sequatchie in Cherokee was *sikna' utset' tsi*, which he translated as "o'possum he grins." James Mooney, in his famous work on myths of the Cherokees, wrote that the word is derived from *Si' gwetsi* which was a Cherokee settlement on the south bank of the French Broad River, not far from Knoxville. The major argument against Sequatchie (Sequachee) meaning "hog trough" is that the word seems to have been in use by the Cherokee and the Creek in some form before the De Soto expedition entered the valley. It was De Soto who brought the first hogs that the Indians had ever seen. So if, indeed, the word Sequachee was in use before De Soto's expedition it could not have meant "hog trough" since the Indians had never seen any hogs at all. Therefore, it should probably be concluded that Sequatchie (Sequachee) means "Opossum, he grins or runs."

The first county court met at the home of Joel Wheeler in the Fillmore or Walnut Valley community on the first Monday in January of 1858. B. L. Bennett, Franklin Deakins, Bryon Heard,

John Pickett, Samuel W. Roberson, John H. Rogers, and John L. Stone were appointed the first commissioners of the newly organized county. They elected other authorized officials, provided for public buildings, and fixed the tax rates. After the first meeting, it was decided to move the county seat to a more centrally located spot and a site was selected on property owned by William Rankin at Coop's Creek, the name of which was shortly changed to Dunlap. A post office had operated at Coop's Creek since October 13, 1836, with William Rankin as postmaster. On June 12, 1858, the name of the post office officially became Dunlap, and William Rankin continued as postmaster.

As soon as Sequatchie County was ready for the performance of daily business a suit was brought against the organization of the county, filed on February 18, 1858, by Benjamin F. Bridge- man, a prominent farmer in Bledsoe County. This case was brought before Chancellor T. Nixon Van Dyke in March of 1860 and he ruled that the rights of Bledsoe County had indeed been violated by the organization of Sequatchie County. The case was appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court in Nashville, which reversed the decision in September of 1860. They stated that the organization of Sequatchie County had been completed on February 3, 1858. Therefore, the suit filed by Benjamin F. Bridge- man was invalid since it was filed after that date. The Tennessee Supreme Court also ordered that an accurate count of the voters in Bledsoe County be taken and if the number of qualified voters was less than 1000 or if the area of the county was reduced below the 625 square miles set forth in the constitution, then Bledsoe County would be entitled to get back the tenth district that had become part of Sequatchie County. Whether Sequatchie County was fully organized or not did not matter. Luckily for the future of Sequatchie County as it was then constituted the Civil War came along and played havoc with these proceedings; the legal existence of Sequatchie County was not settled until the Constitution of 1870 was approved. The Constitution recognized the legal existence of Sequatchie County as it was first formed and Bledsoe County was assured that there would not be any more partitioning of its land. Bledsoe's size was permanently fixed at

404 square miles, which shows that if the Tennessee Supreme Court's ruling had been carried out, Sequatchie County would have lost a substantial part of its land area.

The first election in Sequatchie County was held at several voting places on the first Saturday in March of 1858 for the purpose of electing various county and district officers. Twelve justices of the peace were elected to join the seven men who had been appointed to the county court. Those elected to the court were Joe B. Austin, William B. Elliott, William E. Kell, A. H. Lockhart, I. N. Lockhart, John C. Lockhart, J. M. Morrison, W. B. Narrimore, G. W. Nichols, E. S. Oeumy, I. C. Ruckels, and A. P. Thurman. This made a total of 19 members of the county court for the July term. William Rankin was elected the first sheriff of Sequatchie County but he resigned in October of 1859 and was replaced by M. M. Phelps, appointed by the county court to fill out Rankin's term. William Johnson was elected sheriff in the election held March 3, 1860.

A report was given to the court during the July term on the sale of 29 town lots which had brought in a total of \$2,862.00. Lot number 62 was set aside for the county jail. Also during the July meeting of the county court, William Rankin donated to the county three acres of land for the purpose of building an academy.

### Early Society

The life-style of the inhabitants of Sequatchie County differed very little from that of its neighboring counties of Bledsoe and Marion. The pace of their lives was slow and deliberate. However, they were always willing to help the sick of the community, help a neighbor raise a barn, or join together to build a chapel. Hospitality to friends and especially to strangers was an important manifestation of their concern for others. The people who came to Sequatchie were much like the ones who settled in other parts of the valley. They very seldom came directly from Europe or the eastern seaboard states like Massachusetts or New York. These people were usually of Anglo-Saxon origin and of

the Protestant faith and they usually came from South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and especially North Carolina.

In selecting his homesite the pioneer settler gave first thoughts to the land, which should be slightly rolling with a good spring, and if possible a good running stream or river. The land was important because it represented life and hope for the future. On the land the children would be raised and the old would be buried in the family cemetery. On the land were trees for his house and barn, and fuel for his fire. The land provided spots for tobacco, cotton, sorghum, vegetables of various types, and some flax for the family's personal use. Sometimes a few acres would be set aside for wheat and orchards of apples, cherries, and peaches. There was always undeveloped land nearby so that the farmland could always be expanded. Often a settler's most demanding task was the clearing of the land. This meant clearing the acreage of rocks and trees, especially by the creeks and river bottoms where the thick cane grew. Cane was a particular problem in the Sequatchie area and often had to be grubbed out to prevent its return. Trees were not of much value in those days because they were so abundant that they were considered an annoyance. They had to be girdled and killed, then later cut down and burned, and lastly the stumps had to be pulled out.

Outside activities were generally determined by the seasons. Planting and reaping dates were often determined by old almanac schedules and moon lore. Corn was and still is one of the most important crops in Sequatchie County and it dominated the early settler's calendar. Corn was as ritualistic to the white pioneer as it was to the Cherokees, for the pioneer farmer measured the year by the period of corn planting, the period of the corn in silk, the stage of knee-high corn, the time of harvest, and the period of replanting.

Besides tending the crops the farmers in what became Sequatchie County also tended to livestock such as cattle, sheep, chickens, hogs, and geese. Many of these animals were turned loose to forage for themselves. Hogs and cattle were the major source of cash money for the farmer and they were usually driven to market on their own power, sometimes north to Kentucky

or south to Georgia. In 1852 Josiah McNair Anderson, who was a very prosperous farmer and congressman from Sequatchie Valley, opened the Anderson Pike as a toll road across Walden Ridge to connect with the corduroy road from Chattanooga. The principal purpose of the Anderson Pike was to enable the people of Sequatchie Valley to have access to the just opened railroad, the Western and Atlantic, built by the state of Georgia. This pike was extensively used by farmers from the area to drive herds of horses, mules, and cattle, droves of hogs and sheep, and flocks of turkeys. The toll gate was moved from the Elisha Rogers place three miles west to the James C. Conner place. The toll charges were as follows: horse and rider, 20¢; horse and buggy, 25¢; carriage or wagon drawn by a team, 50¢; herds of horses, cattle, or mules, 3¢ each. droves of hogs or sheep, 1¢ each. Turkeys were driven in flocks each fall with three or four handlers walking to each side and behind them. Turkey drovers were never sure where they would stop for the night because when nightfall comes turkeys will roost and there is nothing anybody can do about it. The farmers who raised stock faced the problem of wolves and wildcats. They became such a menace that the Sequatchie County Court placed bounties on the "scalps" of wildcats.

Milk sickness was a major problem for the farmers of the Sequatchie area. This disease was deadly to sheep, cattle, and deer, and to the other animals that ate the flesh of the infected dead carcasses, such as buzzards, crows, dogs, and opossums. Even people who ate the meat or used the milk and butter would get very ill and sometimes they, too, died. There were many theories and superstitions about the disease, but all the farmer really knew was that certain tracts of land were poisonous. Some believed that spiders caused the disease, while others said the mineral content of the soil or certain plants were responsible for it. The cause of the milk sickness was finally discovered to be tremetol, a poisonous substance found in the white snakeroot plant.

Even with the problems caused by the milk sickness, the people did not go without meat since wild game was very plentiful throughout the various wooded areas. Hunting provided deer, rabbit, squirrel, opossum, fish, and birds such as wild turkeys.

The early settlers were almost entirely self-sufficient so they very seldom bought anything at all. Salt was one of the major items that greatly concerned them. It was brought in by pack horses or in a barrel in a tar wagon. Only a few pounds could be bought at a time since it sold for \$10.00 a bushel. Sugar had to be obtained from sugar maples. If people had any at all it was usually reserved for weddings since it was so much trouble to obtain. Light was provided by the burning of pine knots and tallow candles or from small vessels filled with coon grease. The latter method provided not only light but a rather unique scent. Flint rocks were used to start fires, which sometimes proved to be quite difficult. Some families would not let their fire go out even in the summertime because they used it to cook with. If the fire did go out one of the children would be sent to the nearest neighbor, which sometimes was not very near, to borrow a chunk of fire. Even years later when matches were finally available many people were afraid to use them and therefore continued to rely on the older methods.

Every family had one or more rifles, axes, hatchets, and a butcher knife or two. A saw, auger, broadaxe, and froe were very difficult to come by and some families owned these collectively. The old black skillet was used to cook just about everything. Molasses was even made with a pestle in the skillet and it along with honey were used as the basic sweetners.

Another product that was hard to come by was dye. It was almost impossible to obtain commercial ones. Madder, copperas, and stone (the hard outer covering of the kernel in a fruit) were the principal dyestuffs; they were used with hickory, walnut, and maple bark to produce some very pretty colors. Clothing for the family was usually made at home out of flax, wool, or cotton; but for some special occasions, such as a wedding, calico cloth might be bought.

The county court provided roads classified as first, second, or third class. The early roads were almost all toll roads, operated under individual contracts granted by the court. Certain individuals were assigned certain parts of the road; in exchange for collecting the toll they had to keep their portion of the road



Mansfield Mill, also known as the Walker Mill

in good traveling condition. Most tolls were 25¢ for a horse and \$1.00 for a wagon. During the early 1800s a stagecoach line ran through the Sequatchie Valley. It descended into the valley above Pikeville with stops at Mount Airy, Delphi, Jasper, Bellefonte (the first stop in Alabama), Woodville, and Huntsville. The coaching inn and overnight stop at Therman is still standing, with the date 1810 carved on one of the logs.

The early industries consisted primarily of grist mills on the Sequatchie River. One of the earliest in the Sequatchie County area was the mill built by Norman Mansfield, probably in the 1850s, near present Highway 127. This was a rather small mill catering to the needs of the local people. The Mansfield mill was a frame structure powered by an undershot water wheel; because of conditions on the river, most of the mills in this area were undershot. Residents brought their wheat and corn by horseback or wagon to be ground into flour or meal. As payment, the miller generally took one-eighth of the total grain before he started the job. This mill was still standing until it burned

in the mid-1960s. Between 1951 and 1969 George Sims operated a mill that was originally owned by J. W. Mansfield. Located in the center of Dunlap across from the Rankin house, it was operated with a one-cylinder, 25-horsepower kerosene or diesel motor put in in 1915 and later changed to all electric. Mr. Sims would grind a bushel of wheat (60 pounds) and give the customer 32 pounds of flour. Most of his work was done for payment in kind, though he would also grind wheat for 70¢ a bushel.

Sickness was a very serious problem faced by the pioneer settlers of what was to become Sequatchie County. Tuberculosis, arthritis, rheumatism, various intestinal ills, ailments arising from deficient diets, and the "ague" (malaria) caused the people many problems. Pioneers went to the land and to nature for their cures in times of sickness. Some of the women had a herb to cure any disease. This person was readily available to the sick in the community, and offered her services without hope of favor or any fee. One example of such a woman was Rosa Hughes of the Elm Hill Community. She had many interesting remedies for the sick. For excessive bleeding, read Ezekiel 16:6. Put moist tobacco on a beesting. Honey and vinegar will relieve a sore throat. If you get something in your eye, put a flax seed in the eye and it will drive out the foreign object. Make catnip tea to make a baby sleep and you can give it to others to quiet their nerves. Place a horseradish poultice on the arm to relieve a headache. Hot mullein leaves can be used on the stomach to relieve a stomachache. Drinking hot spiced tea will also relieve a stomachache. A clay and vinegar poultice is good for a bruise. A tea made of seeds or leaves of alfalfa is good to help one's arthritis. Sassafras tea will help to build up one's blood for more energy. A hot sage tea will give you relief from a cold. To bring a fever down you need to boil two roots of wild ginger in a cup of water, strain it, and drink it. For a crack under your toe, tie a greased string around the toe. To bring a rising or boil to a head you should scrape an Irish potato or a piece of raw meat and tie it on; very soon it will come to a head and the core will come out. To cure a thrash in a baby's mouth you should let someone who has never seen his father blow in the baby's mouth. Three teaspoons of apple cider vinegar

to a cup of honey makes a good mixture to help put you to sleep. Just two teaspoons of this mixture before bed will help you fall asleep in half an hour or less.

Many of these old remedies, no doubt, seem rather silly today in the light of modern medicine; but doctors are beginning to take a second look at some of these cures, particularly since western medicine has been introduced to the medicinal practices of the Chinese, who have used herbal medicines for centuries. Maybe the Indians and the old pioneers knew a little more than we give them credit for.

### Religious Beginnings

The Great Revival Movement of the early 1800s, which led to a growth of religious fervor in the back country of Tennessee and Kentucky, occurred about the same time as the settlement of Sequatchie Valley. Methodist circuit riders led this movement in the area destined to become Sequatchie County. At first the area west of the Alleghenies was called the Kentucky Conference, but in 1801 it was renamed the Western Conference. The Tennessee Conference was carved out of this in 1812 with the Holston District part of it. Around 1819 assignments in the Holston District included the Sequatchie Valley.

The circuit rider was a special breed of preacher. He did not come to serve established Methodist congregations but to locate scattered Methodists, create some form of organization among them, and to make new converts to Methodism. The circuit rider journeyed on horseback over hundreds of rough and dangerous miles around circuits that could take up to six weeks to complete. His saddlebags, at best, contained a change of clothes, a Bible, and a hymnbook. He traveled by faith, the faith that he would be welcomed in the homes of the people where he could stay a night or two and take his meals with the family. The circuit rider was especially important in his role in wedding ceremonies, funeral services, and baptisms. These services had to be planned for a time when the circuit rider was near by.

The circuit rider would preach wherever and whenever he found

a few people who would listen to him. He sent the word out by the family where he was staying that services would be held and the people walked or rode for miles to attend them. If a chapel had not been constructed in the neighborhood, they met in someone's cabin, maybe a tavern, or even outside under some large tree. Preaching could be scheduled anytime during the week and the circuit rider usually began his sermon around noon and preached two or three hours. His sermons were often very loud, very colorful, and might be full of misused and mispronounced words, but this only added to his acceptance in the community. He was no better and no less than the people he served.

Many Methodist churches in the Sequatchie Valley developed from camp meetings that might last weeks at a time. People would come from great distances on foot or horseback or in ox carts or wagons. They would bring with them enough food and other provisions for a stay of many days or weeks. These camp meetings were often interdenominational, even though they were held by a Methodist circuit rider. They often became gatherings for socializing, gossiping, horse trading, and courting as well as worship. The campground would most likely be located in a forest grove near a stream or spring with a large grassy area in order to accommodate the livestock that the people brought along with them. The preaching would take place in a crudely built shed if the campground was a permanent meeting place, or in some makeshift shelter. The "pulpit" stand was a platform at one end where the preacher stood and delivered his sermons of hellfire and brimstone. An area in front of the platform, called the "altar" or "penitent's pen," was strewn with straw for the sinners to come and kneel on and confess their wrongs. Preaching would often go into the night and the meeting ground would be lit by the warm glow of burning pine knots and flickering campfires. An area at some distance from the preaching area would serve as a campground where makeshift tents of quilts and blankets and rough shelters such as lean-tos served the various families for protection from the cool, damp nights and the rain that was very prevalent during the summertime revivals.

Services sometimes went on incessantly, disturbed only by bay-

ing hounds, stampeding horses and mules, or by some night-prowling animal such as a panther or wildcat. The circuit riders were very emotional as they pleaded with their listeners to obey the "voice of Jesus" and to repent of their sins. The rewards for the unrepentant were very graphically described to the smallest of details. The suffering and anguish of the damned were not minimized by the preacher. The preacher would yell and jerk and jump around the platform and oftentimes he would get out in the midst of the people. He would work himself and his listeners into a fervor of emotionalism that brought many to the "altar" to confess and repent of sins that they had not even had thoughts of committing. This type of service often left both audience and preacher totally exhausted and thus sleep was easy for the repentant, but restless and warm for those who failed to come forward.

#### *Welch's Chapel*

One of the earliest Methodist Churches in the Sequatchie Valley was started as the result of a camp meeting held in 1826 by Jonathan Hale, a circuit rider. Andy and Rebecca McWilliams, who lived in the Fillmore (Elm Hill) community of what is now Sequatchie County, wanted to know more about the Gospel, so they asked for a circuit rider to come to their community for a camp meeting to help in the establishment of a church. The circuit rider, Jonathan Hale, rode down from the Cumberland Mountains and he was greeted by a small group at Fillmore. Besides holding the camp meeting, Hale received couples who had had civil marriages who wanted to repeat their vows before a preacher, and there were several babies to be christened. The leaders told Hale that they wanted to organize a visible body of Christ in their community. A school, named Thomas School, had been started about 1824, and it was being held in a little log house with T. J. Nichols doing the teaching. Nichols volunteered to lead the services of the church and they agreed that they could meet in the Thomas Schoolhouse. So the Methodist Church called Thomas Chapel was organized. In addition to Andy and Rebecca McWilliams, charter members were William Borden, Bill

Griffin, Dan Hunter, Elizabeth Hunter, John and Anna McWilliams, J. T. Nichols, and John and Caroline Thomas.

In 1850 the Thomas Chapel congregation completed a new building at the present site of the Welch Chapel Cemetery, calling it Nichol's Chapel. The membership roll in 1850–1851 listed 69 names including two blacks, Hoziah Green and Albert Owins. They were supposedly buried in the Welch Chapel Cemetery. Strict discipline was maintained in the congregation as members were dropped for fighting, fiddling, swearing, profanity, negligence, drunkenness, and for frolicking.

In 1883 a new building, a white plank structure, was constructed on land donated by John Welch. So the name of the chapel was changed a third time to Welch's Chapel, following the tradition of naming the chapel after the family donating the land. This is the present name for the small white structure that is used for worship service today.

Disaster struck the Welch Chapel in 1921 when a storm with very strong winds destroyed the building that had been built in 1883. For a period of three years the people of Welch's Chapel met with the Baptists at Little Hopewell Baptist Church. In a spirit of true brotherhood, the Baptist preacher and Methodist preacher shared the pulpit with each preaching once a month. During the intervening three years the people of Welch's Chapel began to collect money and materials to build a new building. John Borders Graham, who was too old to do much work, traveled all over the community, in a buggy pulled by his horse, Blaze, collecting contributions for the new building. In May of 1925 the hard work paid off and the dream was realized with the construction of the new building. As the years passed additions have been made to the church, but the sanctuary portion built in 1925 remains as a monument to those early religious pioneers.

During this period, W. C. Daniels of Chattanooga served as the preacher and held services once a month. Daniels also started the first missionary program. Once a month on Sunday the wagons and buggies brought the people to the Sunday service. After the sermon by W. C. Daniels the afternoon would be spent in

singing spiritual songs to God. The congregation produced several good song leaders.

On June 8, 1956, the church was selected as a Rural Church of the Year and a banquet was held in Chattanooga for presentation of the award. In the same year, on August 19, the church celebrated its 130th anniversary. "Candles of History," a pageant written by Grace Patton and Evangeline Ramsey, was presented in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. George Hickman. An audience of over 800 people attended the reliving of the history of Welch's Chapel.

Improvements in the building were started in the 1950s with the addition of three Sunday school rooms. In 1966 a fellowship hall was added and this made three more rooms available. Various other improvements such as carpeting, central air and heat, running water, and extra parking places have been made possible through the hard work and many contributions by the people of Welch's Chapel.

### *Chapel Hill*

Another Methodist Church has played a prominent role in the religious history of Sequatchie County. This is the picturesque little white church at the foot of Walden Ridge just off of Route 127 that is known as Chapel Hill.

The first church on this site was built in 1852 and at that time it was named Henniger's Chapel in honor of the circuit rider John Henniger, who had lived for sometime in Sequatchie Valley near Pikeville. Fourteen years after Henninger's death the chapel was named for him. Even though Methodism had been established in the community for over 25 years, Henniger's Chapel was the first Methodist Church to be constructed in that part of the valley.

The church building was built out of planks and logs by Norman Mansfield and his son, Alex. It was constructed on a generous amount of land donated by Allen Kirklin on July 19, 1852. Besides being the pioneer Methodist church in the community, Henniger's Chapel was noted for the memorable Great Revival which was held there in the fall of 1853 by its first preacher, R.N. Price. Some of the many families brought into the church by this



Chapel Hill Methodist Church, built in 1884

meeting were the Andersons, the Barkers, the Deakinses, the Kirklinns, the Stewarts, and the Thurmans. The church has produced many strong religious leaders and five ordained ministers: Edgar R. Lewis, Absalom D. Stewart, John R. Stewart, Richard A. Stewart, and William J. Stewart.

Adjacent to the church is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Sequatchie County. The property was apparently given by Allen Kirklin before he donated the lot for the church building because the first grave in the cemetery is that of William Rogers and the date of death on the original headstone was 1849. William Rogers had organized the first Sunday school in the community. In the corner of the cemetery, next to and at the back corner of the church, is the grave of Bill Emery, a former slave of the Kirklinns. Sometimes, in the process of opening a new grave, the grave diggers have unearthed what appear to be the remains of brass-toed Civil War-issue shoes. Some soldiers must have been buried in the cemetery, but their graves were unfortunately not marked.

During the Civil War the area around Henniger's Chapel was used as a campground by the 21st Corps that was part of the Army of the Cumberland commanded by Gen. William S. Rosecrans. The 21st Corps was commanded by Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden, the son of Senator Crittenden of Kentucky. The soldiers cooked over fires that were built on the rock slabs that had been used to cover some of the early graves. The Yankees even took the planks from the church and transported them farther down the valley to build their sleeping quarters. What remained of the church of Henniger's Chapel burned sometime between August 19 and August 29, 1863, which was just a few weeks before the Army of the Cumberland was to meet a devastating defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga. It was not known whether the church burned accidentally or was purposely set ablaze by the bluecoated Yankees for some insult or mistreatment they might have received from the local citizens. The community was largely pro-Confederate; Capt. William D. Stewart led a company of Confederate volunteers made up of men mostly from the Henniger's Chapel community.

Near the closing days of the Civil War William Stewart, who had been sent home because of illness, called for a prayer meeting to be held at Josiah Rogers's home. Led by some of the chief lay leaders in the community, Rogers, William D. Stewart, and Stephen D. Thurman, a huge crowd assembled and the meeting continued all night; about 15 young men and women were converted. The prayer meeting was moved to the Liberty Church, a Union church used by the Cumberland Presbyterians, where it continued for three full weeks. Only two sermons were delivered during this time and these were made by ministers who were passing by. There were over 200 conversions during this meeting that very strongly resembled the one of 11 years earlier at Henniger's Chapel.

After the close of the Civil War, the Methodist Conference appointed Absolom Deakins Stewart to reorganize the southern Methodist churches from Asheville, North Carolina, to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Stewart was from Henniger's Chapel and spent a lot of his time working with the Methodists at Henniger's Chapel.

The present church of Chapel Hill was built by Paul Preston in 1884 with assistance from men of the community who volunteered their labor. An application was filed in 1904 for compensation from the federal government for damages that were made to the church during the Civil War. The federal government, however, rejected this application of reimbursement. Additions and improvements were made to the church over the years. In the 1930s a vestibule was added, and in 1951 an annex of Sunday school rooms were added.

In 1952, under the ministry of Virgil N. Hale, the Chapel Hill Methodist Church held its centennial celebration. There was an all-day meeting and picnic lunch with an address delivered by Lawrence Spears, an attorney and Sunday school teacher from Chattanooga. Other parts of the program featured the church choir, the minister, and the great-grandson of John Henniger, Col. Creed F. Bates. Twelve 50-year members of the church were honored. At four o'clock that same afternoon the wedding of James Richard Talley and Mildred Marie Barker was performed.

The church was first assigned a regular minister by the Jasper Circuit, and then by the Dunlap or Chapel Hill-Welch Circuit, before becoming a separate station. Besides John Alley, son-in-law of Allen Kirklin, some of the ministers since 1881 have included J. W. Carnes, H. C. Clemons, J. W. Hammer, C. M. James, Alden Nichols, and H. B. Wilson. The first to serve the Chapel Hill-Welch Circuit was J. P. Ramsey. In 1968 Chapel Hill became a separate station and its first full-time preacher was Malcolm Jollay.

The Chapel Hill cemetery also expanded over the years as more and more room was needed. Will Alley, grandson of Allen Kirklin and son of John Alley, obtained the Kirklin farm and made it his home until March of 1902, when it was purchased by Alexander Mansfield. Three years later, in 1905, Mansfield donated a tract of land to the church to add to the cemetery. In 1935 Alexander Mansfield's son, William A. Mansfield, donated another tract of land for a section of the cemetery. In 1956 the cemetery was further enlarged by the purchase of a fourth tract

of land from the original Kirklin farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Allen.

A nondenominational Sunday school is held at the church and a hour later the church services are held. The church has a Women's Society of Christian Service as well as a Wesleyan Guild and a youth organization.

#### *Dunlap United Methodist Church*

Another Methodist congregation of early importance—now the largest in Sequatchie County—is the Dunlap United Methodist Church. The early records of the Methodists in Dunlap or Coops Creek are very scanty. The circuit riders were no doubt visiting the area before the Civil War, and at the time of the outbreak of hostilities T. F. Glenn was preaching in Dunlap. After the war the records show that a Mr. Clenden was serving as a preacher in 1866. The first meeting place of the Methodists in Dunlap was an old school house and they continued to gather there until the meeting place was moved to the courthouse. In the early days Dunlap was part of the Jasper Circuit, which provided the circuit riders who did the preaching. Their total yearly salary was between \$300 and \$400.

For a period of 70 years (1898–1968) the Dunlap Methodist Church occupied the oldest church building in Dunlap. It was a one-room structure located near the present courthouse. The building had formerly been owned by the Primitive Baptist Church. Minerva Rankin, of the prominent Rankin family, had been responsible for its construction. On August 8, 1898, the trustees of the Primitive Baptist Church, W. J. Austin, Franklin Deakins, F. P. Ewton, and J. S. Pope made a deed to the trustees of the Methodist Church, L.W. Cordell, W. H. Mansfield, Robert Mauzy, J. S. Rogers, J. A. Stewart, J. M. Stewart, and W. B. Stewart. One of the Baptist trustees, D. S. Pope, was living in McMinnville so W. B. Stewart, a young lawyer and trustee, took the deed by horseback to McMinnville to have Mr. Pope sign it. The price paid for the building was \$502. The Methodist congregation occupied the building as a one-room structure until the first addition was made in 1910 at the suggestion of the preacher, Jacob Lafayette Griffiths.

On Easter Sunday of 1897 a group met in the old frame courthouse and organized the Methodist Sunday school. Judge James Houston Heard and his brother-in-law, Chancellor T. L. Stewart, were the leaders in the Sunday school movement. There were 24 charter members belonging to the families of J. E. Farmer, J. H. Heard, Dr. J. A. Lamb, Bill Mauzy, Robert Mauzy, T. L. Stewart, and Kelly Thaxton. Chancellor Stewart served as superintendent for 10 years and was followed by Judge Heard who served for 25 years. During this quarter of a century Judge Heard was noted for his regular attendance. He averaged missing not more than one Sunday per year. Judge J. H. Heard is also remembered for the resolutions he made at age eight and faithfully kept all his life. He resolved that he would never drink liquor, use tobacco, or swear.

The 25th anniversary of the Sunday school was observed on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1922, as "Banner Day." Over 160 people were in attendance at Sunday school and there were 17 conversions at the morning service. Ray Thomas Houts was serving as preacher at this time.

The Dunlap Methodist Church, like other churches in the county, has been a segregated congregation. One black man and his wife were, however, accepted by the congregation. Morgan and Sally Rankin had probably been slaves owned by the prominent Rankin family. When slavery was abolished they continued to live in Dunlap. Morgan worked as a barber and his wife cooked and cleaned for people. Sally Rankin was well known throughout the valley for her cooking. The Rankins attended the Dunlap Methodist Church, where he served as custodian for many years. During the church services they sat in the back out of choice, not because they had to. When Morgan Rankin died his funeral was held in the church and many members of the congregation and other friends from the community attended, showing the respect and high regard in which he was held. Although a number of blacks had moved into Dunlap to work in the coal mines, they were segregated from the community and left after the mines closed. Morgan and Sally Rankin stayed on in Dunlap even after all the other blacks had gone elsewhere. Their adopted son, Booker T., was probably the last black to live in the county.

In 1947 another addition was made to the church with the construction of the concrete block education wing, connected to the sanctuary by a passageway. Another addition was made in 1953 providing more classrooms, a chapel, and a study. The final addition at the original site was another group of classrooms.

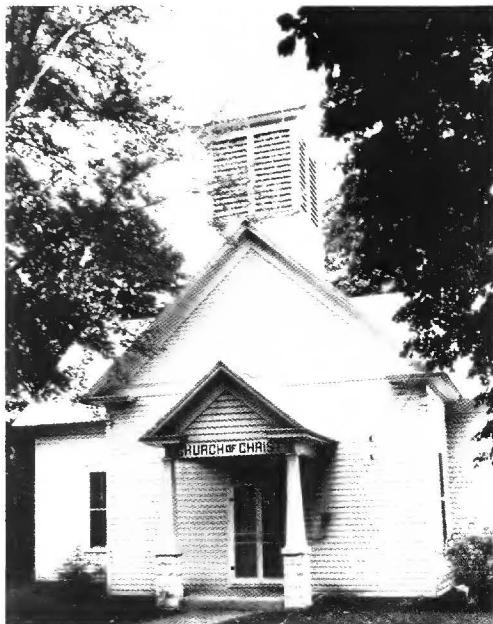
When the additions and preacher's home had been paid for, a building fund was begun for a new sanctuary. A building committee was appointed and met for the first time on September 16, 1965. On June 2, 1967, after 21 months of planning, it was proposed that a new lot be purchased and built on. The plan was to sell the old church building, raise \$40,000 in cash in 12 months, and borrow \$40,000 payable in 120 monthly installments.

C. V. Wilson of Crossville, Tennessee, was selected to draw plans and supervise construction. The building was completed in July of 1968 at a total cost of \$123,000. The dedication service for the new building was held July 14, 1968, with W. M. Seymour presiding. The building was paid for in eight years.

### *Church of Christ*

Although the Methodists were the main religious group in the early history of Sequatchie County, other groups came later and have also made their contribution to the county. One such group used the Bible as their only religious guide and called themselves simply "Christians." Their motto was "Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent." They had their beginnings in the Restoration Movement of the 1790s, which sought to lead men back to the church of the New Testament and worship God in the ways that the early Christians had worshipped. Early leaders of this movement were Alexander and Thomas Campbell, Raccoon John Smith, Barton W. Stone, and Theophilus B. Laramore who at one time lived in Sequatchie County. This religious group is known as the Church of Christ.

The history of the Church of Christ in Sequatchie County is very scant as few records were kept. No doubt some meetings of the Church of Christ were held before and after the Civil War, but there are no records of them. The Church of Christ in Dunlap had its beginning in the year of 1902 when the J. T. Walker



Dunlap  
Church of  
Christ, built  
about 1907

family moved here from Spencer, Tennessee, and the C. E. Burrow family moved here from Chattanooga, Tennessee. These two families had two objectives in mind. One was to establish a congregation of the Church of Christ and the other was to go into the mercantile business. The first problem they faced was finding suitable place in which to worship. There was no house available so arrangements were made to meet in the school building in the afternoon, since the Baptists used the same building at 11 o'clock in the morning.

The search then began for members of the Church of Christ who might be living in the area. First a Mr. Watkins was located; then a short time later Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Haskew moved to Dunlap and began worshiping with the church. Dessie and Dora Walker, J. T. Walker's daughters, moved to Dunlap and were added to the growing numbers. In March of 1903 Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Payne moved from Spencer to Dunlap; they were later followed by Professor and Mrs. Freiley and family, who also came from Spencer.

In 1904 Charles Holder started to preach for the church once a month, sometimes several nights in the week. The membership began to grow as people were moving into Dunlap to work in the coal mines.

In the year 1907 Mr. J. T. Walker purchased some lots in the Dowing addition in Dunlap and built a home there. He then deeded two lots to the Church of Christ to be effective when and if the home place passed out of the hands of his heirs. Also about this time a 30-day meeting was held that resulted in 30 conversions.

W. V. Freiley, H. P. Payne, and J. T. Walker were selected as the first Elders. C. E. Burrow and J. A. Haskew were appointed as the first Deacons. The church was growing rapidly until the mining operations in Dunlap closed down and many members moved elsewhere.

Some of the preachers who have led the Dunlap Church of Christ have included Charles R. Brewer, G. C. Brewer, J. T. Clark, Thomas Cook, Jim Mac Foust, J. L. Hines, Bobby Jones, L. B. Jones, C. J. Kidwell, T. B. Larimore, R. H. Moody, W. H. Sutton, Brent B. Walker, and J. T. West. The present minister is Ernest Laws.

By 1952 the church could pay a full-time preacher and build him a house. Bobby J. Jones was the first full-time preacher and he stayed until 1954. In March 1961 a new church building was completed, located on Highway 127 just three blocks from the center of town. A new preacher's home was completed in 1974.

#### *The First Baptist Church*

The First Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in the county, was started on the third Saturday of January in 1868 as a group of some 15 people met "for the sake of convenience and believing that an organization at Dunlap would tend to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom." The early history of Baptists in Sequatchie County is very similar to that of the Methodists in that circuit riders came through and held meetings from time to time. When the church was first organized in 1868 it was simply called the Dunlap Baptist Church.

On July 17, 1896, the church was reorganized with services

being held in a schoolhouse until sometime in the mid-1920s when the first church building was completed. It was a white frame building located at the present site of the church building on Highway 127 near the center of town.

Until 1942 most of the preachers were only part-time, preaching one or two Sundays a month as they often preached in other churches in the valley on the other Sundays. In a business session on December 6, 1942, the church leadership voted to employ a full-time minister. Later in September 1944, in another business session, the name of the church was changed from the Dunlap Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church, as it is still known today.

In 1953 the present educational building was built behind the old frame building. The building was made possible by the co-operative efforts of church members in both financial support and labor. Ernest Kelly was the minister at this time.

The present sanctuary was built in 1956 and was officially dedicated on October 28, 1956, when Wayne Bassette was the minister. In the next few intervening years the First Baptist Church underwent one of its greatest periods of growth, especially when Bobby Zumbro became the full-time minister. He was very active not only in the work of the church but throughout the community in helping organize the Dixie Youth Baseball program and other activities for the young people of the community.

The First Baptist Church has just recently been remodeled with new carpeting and stained glass windows.

Sequatchie County has a number of other religious bodies that are somewhat smaller in size and later in their establishment. Currently the Church of God is very well-represented throughout the county, as are the Seventh Day Adventists, Presbyterians, Primitive Baptists, and various other churches.

### Early Education in Sequatchie County

Education in the early settlement of Sequatchie County took a backseat to survival and to religion. Religion was necessary for survival since men had to depend on God to protect them from

the diseases, wild animals, elements, and starvation. However, education in the sense of "book learnin" was not necessary for survival. All the education one needed could be acquired from one's parents in the form of how to hunt, fish, plant crops, or how to cook. These were the fundamental things a person needed to know, and schools and teachers were not needed to teach these things.

As the frontier became settled, some desired formal schools to teach their children to read, write, and cipher. Sometimes a separate building was constructed for a school, but more often than not a church building was used for the school through the week. In some cases the minister was also the teacher, or perhaps an itinerant teacher would board with the children's parents as part of his salary.

The schoolmaster usually taught in a one-room school with primitive surroundings, such as a lack of adequate heat. The rules he imposed were always very strict and he enforced them with the aid of switch or paddle. The children were required to sit at attention and when called upon by the teacher they had to recite the required information or be punished. Learning was by rote and those lacking a good memory were often classified as "dunces." The parents were very supportive of the schoolmaster and poor grades from him or reports of misconduct would likely lead to a good "thrashing." The school term usually lasted only a few months in the winter because this was the only time most students could attend school. In the spring, summer, and fall they were needed at home to do chores and work in the fields planting and harvesting.

The first school to be started in what is now Sequatchie County was started in about 1824 in the Fillmore Community of what was then the tenth district of Bledsoe County. School was held in a small log structure with T. J. Nichols serving as teacher. This small one-room school was called the Thomas School. It was later also used for church services. In 1850 it was replaced by the Nichols School and Eli Thurman served as teacher. Later a school was built at Welch's Chapel, which is now known as Elm Hill.

In Dunlap the first school that is known to have existed was

Rankin Academy. On July 5, 1858, William Rankin donated land for the school and he, along with J. R. Brown, Franklin Deakins, J. W. Simpson, and S. D. Thurman served as the first trustees. The school was built in 1866 west of Bill Lamb's place. M. E. Deakins was one of the teachers.

With the beginning of public support for education in Tennessee people began to think of building schools for each community or district in Sequatchie County. At first the county was divided into eight civil districts, each to have one or more schools. In 1861 the New Hope community (once known as Sunnyside) opened Temple School. Some of the early teachers there included Abb Deakins, Ebb Hamilton, Sallie Pickett, Burl Saynes, and Kate Smith. The old school building at New Hope burned and was replaced in 1884 with a two-story brick building now used as the New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The school was also called the Academy and had a dormitory where the students lived.

In 1873 the county court began a program to aid the schools financially with the passage in April of a 50¢ poll tax and, in July, a 10¢ tax on each \$100 of taxable property. In 1874 Bethany School was erected in the sixth district; Tilman Walker was one of the first principals. In 1879 Hall School was built in the Center Point Community where the Hall Church of Christ now stands. Professor W. H. Wilson, a graduate of Burritt College in Spencer, Tennessee, taught the first term. Both the Bethany and Hall schools were built with aid of the new tax money.

Several schools were constructed in the 1890s or early 1900s. The Gage school was built on Cagle Mountain to serve that community. On Fredonia Mountain there were two schools. One was called Land's Chapel and the other Top School, since it was on the top of the mountain.

The first and only black school in Sequatchie County had its beginnings in the early 1900s when the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company opened up a large mining operation. This brought many new people to the county, including a number of blacks and a separate school was opened for them. In 1908, 19 pupils



Sequatchie County's first high school was constructed in 1909. The first floor was used for the lower grades and the second floor for the upper grades and high school.

were enrolled, 26 in 1917, and 20 in 1922 when the mines closed. Most of the blacks left at this time.

One mile south of Chapel Hill Methodist Church Gilbert Cordell built Oak Hill School in 1904. W. A. Hixson was the first principal. In 1928 this school was consolidated with Center Point in a new building on land given by the heirs of H. H. Thurman.

Spelling bees were very popular in these early schools. Recitations were held every two weeks on Friday afternoon and the entire community often attended. The schools were used quite frequently as community centers. Teachers at these early schools were not well paid. In 1910, for example, Lizzie Easterly was paid \$50 a month. In 1923 teachers were paid between \$70 and \$80 a month. The school year was about seven to eight months long.

In the sixth district Dooley and New Life schools were combined to form Liberty School in the 1920s. Bethany School was

consolidated with Daus to form the Daus School on a plot of land the school board had purchased for \$225. The first school in the eighth district was called Hollow Pole School and then Brown's Chapel. The original building that housed the school is the only one-room school still standing in the county. It is now used as a church building. The school was later moved to its present site and renamed Lone Oak. This school burned in 1957 and a seven-room building was constructed and ready for use the next school term. In the seventh district the only school was Lewis Chapel, which had been started about 1894. On Cagle Mountain the Cagle school, started in 1896, was consolidated with Gage School in 1922. In 1936 a new school was built for the Cagle School on property purchased from the Brush Creek Coal Company. In 1916 the Fredonia School was constructed and Wiley Clemons was the first principal. The John Henry Chapel School was erected on Daus Mountain in 1934 and continued in use only until 1937. This was the last one-room, rough lumber school built in the county; Ike Layne was the carpenter and the cost of the building was about \$300. Walter Davis and Marion Henry were instrumental in getting the approval of the school board. The school was named for John Henry, grandfather of most of the students, who was still living when it was constructed. Overton M. Johnson, only 19 at the time, was the first teacher. The school year began on August 27, 1934, and ended April 12, 1935. The total enrollment was 25 and, since there was no bus, some students walked as far as 2½ miles. Beginners ranged from 3 years old to 17, and the fifth grade was the highest level attained by any of the first students. Paul Laymon was the only one of the first students to graduate from high school.

### Coming of the War

Sequatchie County has never been totally isolated from its surrounding environment. Therefore, its society has been greatly influenced by the history of our state and nation. This is especially true in regards to that tragic conflict called the Civil War.

The Sequatchie Valley had been settled mostly by people from

East Tennessee. Many of them had an absolute abhorrence of slavery, although there are no records of any organized efforts in the valley to emancipate the slaves, and some people were no doubt more antiblack than antislavery. One Methodist preacher made a very frightening prediction when he stated in no uncertain terms, "Men in Sequatchie Valley raise corn to fatten hogs to buy Negroes to grow more corn to fatten more hogs to buy more Negroes, and they will all die and go to the devil." With the advent of the Civil War the valley and county did indeed suffer through the agonies of hell.

In most state elections, the voters of Marion and Bledsoe counties usually returned Whig majorities until that party was destroyed in 1853 by the issue of slavery. In the elections in Sequatchie Valley, the remains of the Whig Party, under the names Know-Nothing, American and other opposition parties, continued to remain victorious over the Democratic Party. Sequatchie residents voted against Andrew Johnson, a leading Democrat, both times he ran for governor. In the 1859 gubernatorial race the incumbent governor, Democrat Isham G. Harris of West Tennessee, ran against John Netherland of Hawkins County in East Tennessee. Harris declared that a vote for his opponent was a vote against the South. The Sequatchie County vote, in its first gubernatorial election, was 176 for John Netherland and 153 for Governor Isham G. Harris. Sequatchie County's vote, however, was not counted in the state totals as a conflict arose whether the county could legally vote since it was created after the 1851 Reapportionment Act and prior to the 1861 reapportionment legislation.

The 1860 presidential campaign between Lincoln, Douglas, Breckinridge, and Bell was very intense. Many bitter and rash statements were made to add fuel to the growing rift in the country. In Tennessee, as in most of the other slave-holding states, Lincoln's name was not even on the ballot. The election results in Sequatchie County for 1860 have never been located, but it can be assumed that the county followed the voting pattern of Bledsoe and Marion counties, which voted overwhelmingly for John Bell of Tennessee who carried the state in the election.

However, Tennessee wanted to give Mr. Lincoln a chance since the Republicans did not have a majority in Congress and could do very little to endanger the “peculiar institution.” The governor, Isham G. Harris, had a different idea. He was in favor of the secessionist movement and convened the legislature in a special session in January to approve a plan to submit the question of secession to the people. February 9, 1861, was the date set for the referendum. The citizens were to vote on whether to hold a convention to decide on leaving the Union and were to elect delegates who would be ready to meet if the convention were authorized. When the referendum was over Tennessee had soundly defeated the secessionist convention plan. Sequatchie County votes were not recorded or lost but it can be assumed that the citizens of the county voted the same way as their neighbors in Bledsoe and Marion counties, where they voted overwhelmingly against the convention. Many “fire-eaters” in the state and from amongst her southern neighbors spoke disparagingly of Tennessee, so the arguments continued. Franklin County went so far as to threaten to withdraw from Tennessee and join the Confederacy.

However, the events of April 12, 1861, changed the attitude of many people in the states of Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Fort Sumter in South Carolina was fired upon by the Confederate forces commanded by Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, intent on capturing it before it could be resupplied. President Lincoln immediately called for 75,000 volunteers from the states to put down the rebellion. Governor Harris sent back a defiant reply and pointed the state toward alliance with the Confederacy. The state legislature voted to conduct another referendum on June 8, 1861, to approve or disapprove their act of severing relations with the United States. The results were that Tennessee became the last state officially to leave the Union in an over two-to-one vote. East Tennessee, however, voted to remain in the Union. Sequatchie County was the only one of the three counties in the valley to vote for secession, the tally being 153 for separation and 100 against (these figures are reasonably accurate). It is ironic that Sequatchie County

voted for secession while Marion and Bledsoe counties, which had more slaves, voted against secession. This is possibly accounted for by the leadership of two or three landowners who used their influence to convince the residents to vote for separation. George Deakins of Sequatchie County was one of the "fire-eaters" who was vehement in his desire for separation and no doubt influenced others.

Pro-Union people of Tennessee got another opportunity to express their feelings in the governor's race of 1861. In this race Isham Harris, the incumbent, was opposed by William H. Polk, the younger brother of former President James Knox Polk. Harris supporters viewed votes cast against their candidate as treasonous. Harris won the election easily with a margin of 36,500 votes. Sequatchie County voted for Harris with 151 votes for him and 142 for Polk. The neighboring counties of Bledsoe and Marion went for Polk, thus reflecting the fact that secessionist and union feelings had not changed very much, and that the population of Sequatchie County was pretty evenly divided over the question.

### The Civil War

With the outbreak of war the families of Sequatchie County were divided, with some joining the Confederate forces and others volunteering to support the Union cause. In the fall of 1861 William Deakins Stewart was made captain of a company of Confederate volunteers from Sequatchie County. This group was organized as Company K of the 5th Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, later called Company H of the 35th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, and also called 1st Tennessee Mountain Regiment. They were organized into a regiment at Camp Smart near McMinnville, Tennessee, on September 6, 1861, under Col. Benjamin J. Hill. At the end of three weeks they were sent to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and placed under command of Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne's brigade of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's army. They remained at Bowling Green until the battle of Fort Donelson. They accompanied their brigade in the evacuation of

Tennessee and participated in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862. During this battle Captain Stewart rendered gallant service and was wounded. He was sent home on furlough and his cousin, George S. Deakins, succeeded him as captain and later was promoted to major. After recovering from his wound, Captain Stewart returned and went into the cavalry. L. L. Dearman and H. T. Kell were other Sequatchians who served in this regiment as officers.

Capt. George Washington Heard was among the Sequatchians who joined the Union army. He was selected by Gen. William S. Rosecrans for escort service when his army moved through the Sequatchie Valley area. Captain Heard saw action in the battle of Chickamauga and was wounded in the Battle of Chattanooga at Missionary Ridge. Maj. William Kelly entered the Union service as an engineer, serving under Gen. George H. Thomas and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant; he constructed military warehouses at Bridgeport, Alabama, and other places.

No major campaign or battle was fought in Sequatchie County, but it served as a crossroads for both armies as they moved up or down and sometimes across the county and valley. During the war civilian law broke down and roving bands of bushwackers and guerrillas used the war as an excuse to kill and rob anyone no matter which side they supported. These marauders often raided into Sequatchie County stealing whatever they could find. The William Rankin house, the first house built in Dunlap, was pillaged during this time. Rankin had fled Dunlap, going farther south to escape the conflict, and while he was absent his home was ransacked and two soldiers were killed on the grounds. Their remains supposedly still rest there today.

The war moved closed to the valley in the fall of 1862 when the Confederate forces of Gen. Braxton Bragg moved his army into Chattanooga, where he began his campaign into Kentucky. Here he had hopes of pulling the Yankees out of Tennessee and joining with the forces of Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith in turning on his pursuers. The route that General Bragg's Army of Tennessee followed was across Walden Ridge by the Anderson Road into Sequatchie County. About 27,000 men under Gen. Leonis



The Rankin house, occupied by officers of both armies during the Civil War

das Polk and William Hardee moved along the eastern side of the county. The people of Sequatchie County had never before seen such a huge army. This occurred in August of 1862 and Confederate sympathizers cheered the troops as they passed, offering them food and drink along the hot and dusty way. The residents of Sequatchie County who leaned toward the Union side naturally shied away from the route of the Confederate march. Near Dunlap Bragg's army turned northward toward Pikeville in Bledsoe County, and on into Kentucky where this proud army was to suffer defeat at the battle of Perryville. The county was left rather quiet but many residents had had their barns and hen roosts picked over and their fields and orchards searched for food. It was usual in those days for the soldiers to raid peoples' homes for food and whatever else they might need along the way, although most of this was done legally by the army with the use of requisitions. The citizens, however, did their best to hide their food, hens, and horses from the voracious soldiers.

There are stories told of people hiding their hams in piles of ashes to keep the soldiers from getting them.

After the loss at Perryville, the Army of Tennessee moved back into its home state. General Polk (The Fighting Bishop) led his troops across the same roads in the Sequatchie Valley that they had traveled over a few weeks before. They moved south through Sequatchie County to Jasper (in Marion County) and then up a mountain road to Murfreesboro. They were escorted along the route by the cavalry of Gen. Joseph Wheeler ("Fighting Joe"). At Murfreesboro the Army of Tennessee was reunited under Gen. Braxton Bragg and were soon to oppose the reorganized Army of the Cumberland now commanded by Gen. William S. Rosecrans ("Old Rosey"). In the bloody winter battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro) the army of Braxton Bragg suffered another defeat and was forced to withdraw. They spent the remaining winter months around Tullahoma and McMinnville, Tennessee. Rosecrans was slow in his movements against Bragg, but he finally forced Bragg to fall back to Sewanee Mountain. Bragg moved from Sewanee back down through the Sequatchie Valley into Chattanooga, Tennessee. This was one of the darkest hours of the Confederacy because, along with Bragg's retreat, the news arrived of the fall of Vicksburg and the tragic loss at Gettysburg where Robert E. Lee was finally beaten. Most people realized the end was near for the Confederate cause and that it would now take the destruction of a Union army to turn the tide of the war. It was this type of victory, which could restore lost confidence and faith, that Braxton Bragg was seeking to bring the battered Confederacy.

Rosecrans was very deliberate in his movements toward Chattanooga. Reconnaissance parties and topographical engineers were sent out through the Sequatchie Valley as far as Pikeville. When General Rosecrans finally moved on Chattanooga the army of Braxton Bragg was gone and all Rosecrans found was a number of so-called deserters who reported to the Yankees that Bragg's army was disorganized and in full retreat toward Atlanta. General Rosecrans then made a decision that was to ruin his military career and deny him the fame that had been waiting

just around the corner. He decided to divide his army into three parts and send them across the mountains to catch up with Bragg's disorganized army and defeat it. This was exactly what General Bragg had anticipated and his army was waiting on the other side to trap the various parts of the Union army against the mountains.

After a number of missed opportunities, Bragg's army faced the Union forces of General Rosecrans near a small town and creek in Georgia called Chickamauga, which meant "River of Death." Here was fought the second bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War and when the fighting had ceased, Braxton Bragg had won a victory. Chickamauga was the last major Confederate victory of the war in the west and it could have undone the damage of Vicksburg and Gettysburg.

In the weeks that followed Chickamauga the area of Sequatchie County became a scene of military drama in one of the great episodes of the Civil War. Deciding to lay seige to Chattanooga where the Union forces had fled after their defeat at Chickamauga, Bragg's army took up positions on Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain thus gaining control of all the railroads, all river traffic, and all the roads on the southern side of the Anderson Turnpike across Walden Ridge and through the Sequatchie Valley into Bridgeport, Alabama, where the Federals had a major supply base. General Bragg intended to use his cavalry, commanded by Gen. Joseph Wheeler, to prevent any aid from reaching the Federals in Chattanooga by way of Walden Ridge. The coming winter and dwindling rations would finally force the Yankees to surrender or starve.

The first problem the Federal army faced was the evacuation of their wounded, who certainly could not survive under the desperate conditions in Chattanooga. Ambulance wagons transported those who could be moved on such a journey to Bridgeport. Those who could walk undertook the tortuous trip on foot; wagons followed to pick up those who fell by the wayside. The trip was made up Signal Mountain and Walden Ridge by way of Anderson Turnpike through Sequatchie County and then to Mar-

ion County and Bridgeport, thus outflanking Bragg's besieging army.

At the same time Federals sent foraging parties out into Sequatchie Valley to look for food. Horses that were not needed were sent into the valley for pasture. Federal foraging parties could hardly find a chicken or a hog, as supplies in Chattanooga had dwindled so that the mules and horses got only three ears of corn a day and guards had to be posted to keep the soldiers from stealing the animal's corn. What food, ammunition, and medical supplies the trapped army received were from Bridgeport by way of the Anderson Turnpike over Walden Ridge.

The Federal soldiers labored many long and difficult hours to maintain the turnpike and "W" Road; they constructed temporary depots at spots like Anderson Cross Roads in southeastern Sequatchie County.

The Corduroy, or "W," Road was so narrow that only in a few places could two teams pass each other. Therefore the Military, or Federal, Road was constructed up Shoal Creek Gorge to alleviate the problem. This allowed the loaded wagons bound for Chattanooga to use one road while the empty wagons returning to Bridgeport used the other. Near the Conner place was a corral where horses and mules were rested and fed until they could be put back to work. It was reported that over 10,000 mules died from overexertion and undernourishment in attempting to get heavy wagons over Walden Ridge.

In the fall conditions worsened as rain fell for most of the month of October, making the Sequatchie river difficult to ford and turning the roads to mud. From Chattanooga across Walden Ridge to Stevenson, Alabama, was 66 miles. Sometimes the trip from Stevenson to Anderson Cross Roads took eight days, and at that waggoneers would have to unload part of their cargo along the way in order to get through. Besides the numerous problems with weak or rebellious animals and the misery of going for days without dry clothing, the Union troops had to face the possible threat of Confederate raiding parties. One of these raids, legendary to the residents of Sequatchie Valley, resulted in what was

possibly the largest single destruction of Union property in the entire Civil War.

*Wheeler's Raid.*

While the Union forces were encircled in Chattanooga, Braxton Bragg ordered his cavalry, under the command of Gen. Joseph Wheeler, to reconnoiter the area around Walden Ridge and Sequatchie Valley. On the night of September 30, 1863, General Wheeler led his cavalry of 3700 across the Tennessee River about 30 miles above Chattanooga, crossing Walden Ridge into the Sequatchie Valley near Pikeville. Once on the west bank of the river, Wheeler regrouped his command, organized his force into three divisions under Davidson, Martin, and Wharton, and moved to Cottonport.

About dusk on October 1 he moved to an area near Dayton and fought off an attack by regiments of Union forces in a mountain gap at Smith Cross Roads. Late on October 2 the Rebels camped at Pitts Gap on the crest of Walden Ridge. As night fell Wheeler summoned his officers and outlined his plan to take a detachment of about 1300 of the best mounted men into the valley in search of prey. Meanwhile, the remainder of the force under Gen. John A. Wharton were to proceed slowly over Cumberland Mountain to McMinnville. Division commanders Martin and Wharton protested the break up of such a small force that was surrounded by larger forces behind enemy lines. General Wheeler retorted, "I have my orders, gentlemen, and I will attempt the work. General Martin will accompany me. General Wharton will go on with the remainder of the command to the vicinity of McMinnville where I shall join him tomorrow night, if I am alive."

Of Wheeler's men who went into the valley, 300 were detailed to guard the rear and the flanks. The surrounding countryside was still cloaked in darkness when Wheeler's exhausted troopers hit the saddle. After they had ridden about six to ten miles they ran into 32 six-mule wagons under heavy guard moving toward Chattanooga. The Rebels charged out of the diminishing darkness to crush the wagon train escort. The wagons were taken in

charge by the Fourth Alabama Regiment of Cavalry while the remainder of the force, now less than 1000, pressed down the valley.

As Wheeler trotted by the captured train, he spotted a young Rebel rifling a captured wagon. "Come out, there, and go to meet the enemy," the little general ordered sternly.

"Yes, General," answered the youngster. "I am very hungry and am filling my haversack," he told General Wheeler as he climbed onto his horse. With that the boy rode off to fight side by side with the general he had served under for months but to whom he had never spoken before this occasion.

As they rode along the new day revealed a sight that stirred Rebel wonder and anticipation. As far as the human eye could behold an undulating line of snow white canvas stretched, covering the largest wagon train any of them had ever seen. There was a protecting force of Union cavalry and infantry spread out along its flanks as the huge wagon line bounced heavily along the deeply rutted roadway of the Anderson Pike.

Promptly forming his troops into three columns, Wheeler charged, riding down infantry as well as cavalry. For nearly two hours the Union guard held out, but in the end Wheeler succeeding in routing the Federals and capturing the entire train.

What the Confederates could not immediately use, they destroyed. In all, the *Chattanooga Rebel* reported, "They captured 1065 wagons and 4500 mules. They brought out 100 wagons and 1000 mules. They burnt the balance of the wagons and killed 3500 mules." When the ordnance train of over 300 wagons was destroyed the noise of exploding shells sounded as if the battle had been resumed. Meanwhile, relief forces from Chattanooga were held off as the destruction continued. It was completed in eight hours.

The *Annals of the Army of Tennessee*, volume 1, fixes the losses of the Confederates at the Battle of Anderson Cross Roads on October 2, 1863, at 60 missing, killed or wounded, and Federal losses at 1300.

The exact size of the Federal wagon train Wheeler destroyed has never been substantiated. It has been variously estimated at

400 to 1500 wagons. Its head was near the top of Walden Ridge and its tail was five miles or more down the valley toward Jasper. The wagons were pulled by four and six-mule teams which, as the shooting started, became panic-stricken and almost uncontrollable, getting tangled in their harness, turning over some of the wagons, and lurching aimlessly in all directions. The Yankee waggoners deserted their wagons and took to the woods on foot or on the backs of some of the mules.

The Confederates, who had never had much to eat, had a good chance to fill their knapsacks so they jumped off their horses to grab cheese and other food that was in abundance. General Wheeler and his officers had to ride up and down the line actually pulling some of their men from the Federal wagons. When order was finally restored Wheeler's men began to burn the wagons and saber or shoot the mules. By midafternoon there was a continuous line of burning wagons that was said to stretch up Anderson's Gap from the bottom to the top of Walden Ridge. The Union soldiers who were left in the valley were cut off from supplies at Nashville and were forced to forage for food and horses among the farmers in the valley. Ammunition wagons exploded, clothes and rations were consumed by flames, and contents of wagons belonging to sutlers were scattered over the area for miles and miles. Dead mules and debris covered acres of ground from the valley floor to the top of Walden Ridge.

The Union cavalry that had tried to oppose Wheeler as he crossed the Tennessee River had regrouped and pursued Wheeler down the valley, and a contingent of Yankees had been ordered up the valley from Bridgeport. They never found the elusive Wheeler, however, as they rode up and down the valley and mountains, often running into each other during the night and producing nothing except confusion. A skirmish was fought about two miles from the summit of Fredonia Mountain.

On leaving the valley, General Wheeler released about 1600 prisoners who swore that they would not take up arms until legally exchanged for other prisoners. The presence of parolees increased the number of irregular troops such as draft dodgers, stragglers, guerrillas, deserters, and other desperadoes who were

commonly known as bushwhackers to residents of the area. In the area around Sparta "Champ" Ferguson operated against Union people; in other parts of the area Dave Beatty, Cal Brixie, John Orange, George Carter, and Witts Perdham, among others, harried the countryside. These men were out for personal gain and were not concerned about who they hurt.

During the Union occupation of the valley problems often developed between the soldiers and the residents. Most were the result of misunderstandings and suspicion on both sides. One story was related by John R. Stewart, later a Methodist preacher who served at Chapel Hill. The story gives a realistic picture of what took place in the community around Henniger's Chapel (today known as Chapel Hill) during this time.

This was the year (1863) when the Federal troops invaded Sequatchie Valley; it was in August. Being nine years of age then, I have vivid ineffaceable memories of those awful times. The first "Yankee" I saw was on my grandfather's farm where several men were harvesting wheat. Anderson Stewart, about my age, was there also. The men were standing in a group around a large walnut tree when four or five "Blue Coats" rode up. Anderson and I made a dash for safety, thinking that perhaps the soldiers would use their guns on some or all present. After we saw that the soldiers were talking in a friendly way with the men we ventured back that we might get a close-up of these "terrible men" about whom we had heard so much said. Although I saw them under many trying circumstances afterwards, that was the last time I was afraid of the "Blue Coats." In a very short while after this a squad of soldiers came to our home. They came through a large gate at the barn and dashed up to the yard fence and the orchard adjacent to the yard. Peaches were ripe and a lot of shoats were in the orchard eating the fallen fruit and were fat and fine but were not large. The soldiers helped themselves to them liberally, shot down several; and one thing that we were certain not to forget, a soldier ran his bayonet through the neck of a small shoat and put his gun on his shoulder and walked off with the small porker kicking and squalling as he went.

The Federal soldiers were raiding our farm and after they had gone we were unable to find two yearling steers, one of which my

father had given me and the other I bought from Mr. Siah Rogers with the money I made going to mill for neighbors whose horses were gone. We had saved old Pats; while she was fat and good looking, she had more age on her than the soldiers liked. I was not so fortunate as to my yoke of yearlings; they had gone with the Yankees and I was dead broke.

I was sent to Uncle Jim Stewart's store for something, and when I was ready to start back home Uncle Jim said, "John you had better go back through the field by your Uncle Joe Lamb's, the Yankees are likely to take your mare from you." I acted on his suggestion and before I got to Uncle Joe's I met two Yankee soldiers armed. They stopped me and ordered me to get down for they wanted the mare I was riding bare-back. One of them had hold of the bridle and ordered me to get down. I sat still and argued with them. One of them got me by the bare leg and started to push me off. Just then the one holding the rein let go and I clapped my heels against old Pats' sides and she sprang away from them in a dead run. They cocked their guns but I went on and left them. Uncle Jim said when I told him about it: "It's a thousand wonders they didn't shoot you."

Many men from Sequatchie County served in the Civil War on both sides. An interesting memorial of life at the front is contained in the letters of West Walker to his wife, Nancy. Walker served in the Army of Tennessee under Braxton Bragg and reported that it was the general feeling of the men that they were tired of running all the time and were ready to stand and make a fight of it. According to Walker's letters there was a pervasive disdain for Bragg and his tactics.

Besides personal comments about his part in the war and his dissatisfaction, his letters expressed a deep love for and devotion to his family. Walker wrote two poems to his beloved wife about home, how wonderful and beautiful it can be, and how he longs to be in Dunlap with his wife and children.

Historically speaking, the letters begin as Bragg was retreating from the bloody aftermath of Stone's River. One letter was written as the Army of Tennessee was passing through Tullahoma to cross the mountains into Chattanooga. The letters seem

to stop just before Chickamauga; it is possible that Walker did not survive this bloodbath.

The war was now drawing to a close and the Confederates were hanging on out of sheer refusal to accept the fact that their fate was sealed. The armies had now left Sequatchie County and moved on to Georgia. Life, however, was not back to normal in the county as renegades and bushwackers still roamed through the mountains and along the valley roads, harassing the residents and stealing whatever they could. Nevertheless, the citizens of the county knew that the war would soon end and that life would soon return to some semblance of normality. Those who had supported the Union were considering the spoils of war while those who had supported the Confederacy were hoping that the punishments would not be more than they could bear.

Changes were coming, lightning swift changes that many would try to resist, although all knew that in the end they could not. The war had changed Sequatchie County, whether for good or ill was not yet decided. People were uneasy about what the future might hold. Many looked to the past, weeping over its loss, while others looked to the future with hope, knowing they would be able to succeed in this new world.

### Reconstruction Period

Of the Confederate states only Tennessee was allowed almost immediate readmittance to the Union and this alleviated many of the problems of Reconstruction. Nevertheless, there were difficulties with former slaves, carpetbaggers, and the Ku Klux Klan, which was founded in the small town of Pulaski, Tennessee, only a little over 100 miles from Sequatchie County.

When the Confederate and Union veterans returned to their homes in Sequatchie County they found only desolation. For all practical purposes the county had been stripped of its livestock and other food by both armies and the marauders who roamed the valley. Many homes, barns, and fences had been destroyed; many fertile fields were overgrown with brush and weeds. The residents had to reclaim the land to get through those lean years,

although nature provided wild game and fish in ample supply. The people, having little cash, made do with what they had and continued to extend hospitality to travelers.

Yet not everyone could dismiss the past. The geographical isolation of the valley allowed the disruptive influences of the war to linger. Periodically there were outbursts of trouble over the feelings of the past. One such event occurred immediately after the war and concerned the county court.

The court reconvened in Dunlap under foreman W. L. Burnett, Esquire, who had been appointed by the secretary of state of Tennessee. Burnett appointed Pettis Brown clerk of the court. Justices of the Peace were appointed, one from each of the eight districts: A. R. Thurman was appointed for the first district; Thomas Cotton, the second district; J. A. Lamb, the third district; James W. Hatfield, the fourth district; J. A. Gray, the fifth district; John Pickett, the sixth district; David Varner, the seventh district, and E. S. Owens, the eighth district. Most of these men had been supporters of the Union cause in the war and they quickly brought suit against the former commissioners for failing to appear with old papers, notes, and tax money belonging to the county. N. F. Burnett was authorized to hire counsel to defend the suit against the county. Prewar commissioners were reappointed for the town of Dunlap and John Alley was appointed to examine school teachers. The court voted to repudiate all prewar debts of the county, but this position was reversed in 1867.

As the years passed and many of the older citizens died the disruptive influences of the war were finally put aside. In the latter part of the nineteenth century communication in the area was greatly improved as postal service was extended. Although the war had disrupted mail service, in 1865 new postmasters were appointed to the already established post offices and new ones were created. Many, however, were later discontinued or changed according to the development of local communities. Some of the postwar Sequatchie County post offices were: Walnut Valley (1867), William Brown, postmaster; Twin Mounds (New Hope, 1872), Elijah Hudson, postmaster; Mount Airy (1872), Thomas Pope,

postmaster; and Laynesville (1878), Madison Layne, postmaster. Other post offices appeared briefly in the communities of Brock, Cagle, Cartwright, Daus, Delphi, Fillmore, Gage, Sunnyside, Tanglewood, Thans, and Wolfsen. The post office at Coops Creek had been established on December 13, 1838; on June 12, 1858, the community changed its name to Dunlap.

This same period saw the development of the first newspaper in Sequatchie County, known as the *Dunlap Times*. Later, in 1889, the *Dunlap Tribune* began publication, and it remains the only local newspaper published in the county. One of the early editors was James Graves Blalock. It is published today by the Valley Publishing Company of Dunlap, owned by Robert W. and Amy Sue Hale. Wade Dodson serves as the editor, and Linda Faye Rogers is the assistant editor.

Still, progress came slowly to this region. Sequatchie County remained an area of farms and scattered rural homes. In 1890 the county population was about 3000, with the majority being native Tennesseans. There was practically no foreign-born population at all and blacks numbered only 37, or 1.1 per cent of the county's population. As before, corn continued to be the main crops, and hogs and cattle roamed what was still often an open range.

There was little improvement in the area of medicine as medical care remained largely nonprofessional. The work of a doctor was often performed by skillful midwives. Dr. Starling Tried Smith began the practice of medicine in Dunlap in March of 1860 and was probably the first doctor in Sequatchie County. A Dr. Sims was practicing in the county in 1874. Dr. J. A. Lamb and Dr. James W. Saines practiced in the latter part of the 1800s. Dr. Saines was also associated with Dr. Smith in the pharmacy or drug business. These men were classic country doctors who traveled by horseback or carriage throughout the county and surrounding area. If an X-ray was needed, the patient had to be sent by train some 60 miles to Chattanooga. In the early 1920s Sequatchie County had four doctors with an average of 908 persons per doctor.

Other doctors were Jim Smith, John Foster Barker, and Newburn Blalock. Dr. John Foster Barker attended Chattanooga

Medical School and began his practice under Dr. S. T. Smith around 1896. He left but returned to Dunlap in 1900 and remained there until his death. He never owned a car so his patients usually sent for him. In 1936 his daughter Grace bought a car and often took him to his patients. He never turned anyone away and often provided his services without pay. Ironically he never doctored any of his ten children. In 1962 he died in his office waiting to see a patient.

The first pharmacy was started by Dr. S. T. Smith and P. B. Smith in Dunlap in 1898, and was known as City Drug Store. The building was two stories high with a movie theater on the second floor. When Dr. Smith died in 1917 the name was changed to P. B. Smith, Pharmacists; in 1946 it was changed again to Smith Drugs. Over one million prescriptions have been filled by this drugstore, now owned and operated by Briggs Smith. In 1953 a second drugstore was started by Bill and Betty Staggs, who sold out to Preston Cates in 1965. Cates moved the pharmacy to its present location five years later.

As late as 1928 Sequatchie County had no dentists and Polk B. Smith was the only registered pharmacist in the county. There were no registered nurses at all in the county during this period. Sequatchie County was sadly lagging behind the rest of the country, but it was not a great deal different from other rural counties of the former Confederate states which were paying the price of the war in lack of economic development.

The completion, in 1888, of the first railroad into the county brought Sequatchie County into the Progressive Era. The railroad was the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway, and it finally terminated at Pikeville in 1891. A passenger train started a daily service from Pikeville to Chattanooga with Dunlap one of the main stops along the way. The first train came to Dunlap on January 2, 1888, stopping at the depot the railway company had constructed. John Morgan Lee served as depot agent and telegraph operator for many years. Roy Houston was the depot agent when the railroad closed the station in 1972. It was always a special time for socializing whenever the train stopped. It was driven from many years by "Uncle" Billy French, with Pete Ran-



The "215," the train that came to Dunlap during the early 1920s

kin as conductor; William Merriman was the first train fireman. The train had three coaches and was easily recognized by its red-topped smoke stack. When people heard the train whistle, they often remarked, "Here comes Uncle Billy." The train, of course, eventually killed the long wagon hauls and stagecoach journeys.

J. B. Johnson received the first oil distributorship in the county in 1917. In the beginning he had only kerosene. His was known as a "barrel station," since his product was first brought into the county in barrels by horse and wagon. It was 1927 before Johnson received his first carload of gasoline, which was brought into the county by rail.

### New Development in County Industry

Coal, the black gold of the Cumberland Plateau, was the single greatest instigator of change in Sequatchie County. It changed the county in ways that even the Civil War had failed to do. Coal brought new people into the county and above all it brought jobs and money, which would lead to development of a new life style.

After the Civil War was over men came to search for coal deposits on the rugged Cumberland Plateau. Blacksmiths and

farmers had been using coal since 1843, but they never realized how important it could be. Men such as Leslie Kennedy, Gerard Troost, and William N. Bilbo started to stimulate the railroad's interest in coal. In 1852 a group of Nashville businessmen incorporated the Sewanee Mining Company and began to open mines in the Sewanee area on the Cumberland Plateau. As a result of their lack of adequate funds the Nashville group contacted Samuel F. Tracy of New York City. Tracy, who had earlier invested in the copper mines at Ducktown, entered into a contract with the Nashville group and another group of investors. A deal was finalized in 1854 with a majority of the stock being turned over to the New York group. Over 22,000 acres of property were transferred to the New York group in return for the needed capital to complete the railroad spur and mining operations.

A decision was made to move the mines and in 1858 the company founded the town of Tracy City in Grundy County. The company ran into various problems with labor and legal controversies over title to land and almost went bankrupt. On March 24, 1860, the company was reorganized under a new charter and the new name of Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company. The company had ten directors from New York and two directors from Tennessee.

The Civil War brought new troubles to the company. The Tennessee creditors gained control and complete ownership through legal actions taken in the Confederate state courts of Tennessee. Arthur St. Clair Colyar of Nashville took over management of the company and used slaves to mine coal for the Confederacy. Then in 1863 the Union army gained possession of the area and the federal government later leased out the property and the lessee exploited the mine. When the war ended the struggle for company control began again and it was finally resolved through the efforts of Colyar, who liquidated his own assets and paid off the company's debts. Colyar became the owner and president of the company in 1866. He rebuilt the company, putting former slaves to work, and increased production from 1300 to 6000 tons in one year. With the increase in production

the company ran into another problem. Their production of coal far outdistanced the demand. Thus experiments were undertaken to see if coke could be produced from the Sewanee slack coal. This was to prove a very important development in the coal mining business, especially for Sequatchie County which would later become a center of the coking process.

In 1881 the company was rechartered as the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company. The company purchased the Sewanee Furnace Company at Cowan, Tennessee, and were thus launched into the iron business. In 1882 the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company purchased the facilities of the Southern States Coal, Iron, and Land Company, Ltd. This company had been founded in 1874 by James Bowron, of Stockton-on-Tees in England, who had purchased about 150,000 acres of iron, coal, and timberlands in the Sequatchie Valley area. The center for this enterprise was Battle Creek. Later the name was changed to South Pittsburg, as it was thought that this would be the steel center of the South as Pittsburg was in the North. Company mines were opened at Dadsville, which was renamed Victoria in honor of the Queen of England, and at Cheekville, renamed Whitwell for a British ironmaster. After a great beginning, disasters started to befall the company. James Bowron died in 1877 and in 1878 Thomas Whitwell, the English president of the company and chief investor, was killed. The company was sold on February 1, 1882, to Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company.

The Tennessee Company was now the largest coal producer in Tennessee and the largest owner of mineral lands and furnaces in the state. In 1882 the company mined 360,000 tons of coal. In December of 1886 the company moved into the rich and profitable area of Birmingham, Alabama, and the Tennessee properties became a secondary concern. The Cowan furnace was dismantled in 1899 and the operations at Tracy City stopped in 1903 after years of gradual decline. The Whitwell mines were kept in operation by the company until 1928. There were many labor problems resulting from the use of the convict-lease system. There were many attacks on and revolts by the miners throughout Tennessee. In 1907 United States Steel Corporation acquired control of the Tennessee

Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company. Some of these lands are located in the southern part of Sequatchie County and are still owned by United States Steel Corporation.

#### *The Coal Boom*

In Sequatchie County the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Corporation began operations sometime before 1905, when it bought the Douglas mining property. The early history of this company has been difficult to uncover. Much of the information comes from a booklet called *The Cupola* which was published by the company. The author used the October 1920 edition. The holdings of the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company included 5000 acres of ore land in Walker County, Georgia, near Estelle; a 300-acre rock quarry near Flintstone, Georgia; a 20-acre factory site in Tannery Flats (a section of Chattanooga) that included a 200-ton blast furnace; and 16,000 acres of coal land in Sequatchie County near Dunlap. The Chattanooga Iron and Coal Corporation also operated two sawmills where timber on corporation property was cut on contract, brought to the sawmills, and prepared for use as railroad ties and as shoring in the mines.

In 1920 Dunlap actually consisted of two towns, the town of Dunlap proper and the corporation's town of Dunlap. The trip by train from Chattanooga to Dunlap was 64 miles. The corporation's town of Dunlap had a population of 700 and was located about one mile from the county seat, which had a population of 765. According to *The Cupola*, Dunlap had a modern high school that gave advanced tuition to all the children who completed the grammar course of instruction either in the one white school or the one colored school.

The county seat of Dunlap had a strong baseball team that was made up in the majority of corporation men but represented both Dunlap, the town proper, and Dunlap, the corporation town, reflecting the fact that there was no real distinction between the two sections.

Dunlap had four churches, one of which was completely constructed by men of the camp. There were 200 houses in the company town, each comparing favorably with the spacious Club



Dunlap, Tennessee, as it appeared about 1910

House, which was provided by the company for visiting officials and managers of the operation. Miss Froney Rankin served as stewardess of the Dunlap Club House. The corporation also maintained a 16-room hotel; one for colored workers (about 25 per cent of the total personnel was black) was located in the negro quarters a short distance up the mountain, which towered over the town and made the surrounding area beautiful.

The architecture of the coal towns or camps varied somewhat from town to town, but they all shared the common trait of monotony. All the camps or town were built of wood, although in the better ones the structures were weatherboarded, the interior walls plastered, and the roofs were covered with tarred paper. In an effort to break the monotony buildings were painted in

a variety of colors—green, red, white, blue, and brown. In Sequatchie County each town was named according to the color of its buildings. There was Red Town, for instance, which was part of the company town, and Green Town.

Some of the houses were four-room cottages with open front porches and small rear stoops. Some were duplexes designed to shelter two families with a continuous interior wall separating them. At a convenient shoveling distance from the front street stood a coal house for the family fuel; a few yards behind each abode was a privy. To the people of Sequatchie County at that time these houses seemed palatial. They had never experienced such quality construction and few had ever seen a plastered wall. Compared to their log cabins and crudely built frame houses, these company houses were very enticing.

In the towns or camps the houses were warmed by open fireplaces. Many hard winters, however, showed that it was practically impossible to burn coal fast enough to keep even one room comfortably heated.

Each of the company towns had its commissary or camp store in a central location convenient to all the families. Dunlap's commissary was described as being most complete, carrying every conceivable need from pins to suites of furniture. It was managed by Mr. D. T. Kell, who was assisted by four clerks.

At Dunlap the corporation, which owned over 16,000 acres and employed 350 men in 1920, was involved in the mining of coal and the manufacture of coke, an allied industry. Coking coals are found in only one class, the bituminous. The Dunlap mines were in the Appalachian range which supplied 80 to 90 percent of the coke produced in the United States. Coke made from bituminous coal is a reliable fuel that consists of fixed carbon with less than 10 percent ash. It is gray in color, coherent, infusible, cellular, and porous. In coking, or the carbonization of coal, most of the volatile matter is removed by heating the coal in a closed chamber to retard or prevent burning.

In 1917 almost 70,000 operating beehive coke ovens—out of the close to 100,000 in the country—produced 60 percent of the coke output of the United States, while less than 70 years before

there were not quite half a dozen beehive coke ovens in the country. The rapid growth of the coke industry was brought about in good measure by the growth of the steel and iron business. Nearly 90 percent of the coke produced each year was used for the production of pig iron, the coke being the deoxidizing agent in the blast furnace and its combustion supplying the heat necessary to melt the iron and slag. Coke was of additional value in the furnace, as the gases resulting from its combustion were utilized as fuel for steam boilers and hot blast stoves. In most modern coking operations a large number of valuable by-products are recovered from the volatile matter distilled from the coal. Among the more important are coal gas, coal tar, ammonium sulfate, and benzol.

Beehive coking ovens were normally used near the source of a coal suitable for the process. So called because of its shape, the beehive coke oven was about 12 feet in diameter and 6 feet high, with brick walls and a hole at the top for charging (or loading with coal) and gas exit. A side door permitted charge leveling, quenching, and removal of the coke. In its simplest elements a beehive coke oven was built on a foundation of clay filling, topped with sand and loam, and the interior of the oven was lined with coarse fire brick.

Where a single block or battery of ovens were used they were built against a bank which served as a retainer for the clay or loam used to fill the spaces unoccupied by the masonry. At Dunclap the double block system was used where the ovens were built in staggered arrangement, back to back with the whole unused space between the opposite front walls filled with clay. The remains of these coke ovens are still visible today and some few of them are in remarkably good condition after over 60 years of nonuse.

Railway tracks ran the length of each battery on top of the coke ovens. The coal was dumped from the cars into the oven, through the tunnel head opening at the top, to a depth of 20 inches. Before the charging, or loading, the side door had been closed with clay to within a short distance of the top, to permit the leveling of the coal with a large scraper in the hands of a

laborer. After leveling, the door was closed to within an inch of the top to allow for the entrance of air. The coking process now began, the oven walls having retained sufficient heat from the previous charge to start the process. Heat was also obtained from the adjoining oven, which was already in blast.

Burning of the coal started on top of the charge, and as the gases and volatile matter were burned, the resultant heat caused the coking process to continue. Coking time depended upon the charge depth and the process was controlled by regulation of the amount of air permitted to enter. A charge at Dunlap was generally six tons of coal, from which in 72 hours were received a little more than three tons of white-hot coke. At the end of the coking operation the door was broken down and the coke quenched by spraying it with water to prevent its burning. The silvery metallic cinders were drawn out by long-handled scrapers and loaded by barrows into railway cars passing parallel to the batteries of coke ovens.

The two batteries at Dunlap totaled 268 beehive ovens and required the attention of 85 men. In 1920 this branch of work was directed by J. W. Arledge, who had been coke oven foreman for 15 years. He was assisted by Fred Cannon, who had been at Dunlap for 5 years.

The batteries were located at the base of the mountain about half way between the white residential section and the two colored sections up on the mountain. The carpenter and machine shop were located on the mountain side of the first battery, and on the town side was the two-story commissary building.

Since June of 1918 W. M. Duffy had served as superintendent of all Dunlap operations and he maintained his office in the commissary building. Duffy was one of the pioneer workers at the corporation properties at Holt and his extensive mining and managerial experience made him especially fitted for the huge mining operations at Dunlap.

In the same office was C. M. Garvich, who had served as chief clerk at Dunlap for over two years. M. E. Beasley served as time-keeper and bookkeeper and had been at Dunlap eight years,

teaching for a while at the white school that was maintained in Dunlap. Part of the second floor of the commissary served as the offices for the chief engineer, L. H. Dexter Hurd.

At one side of the commissary and opposite the center of the coke oven batteries was a huge slate pile dwarfed in appearance by the surroundings. The slate pile was the result of debris from a coal washer that had one time been located there. Opposite the slate pile, and on the other side of the coke ovens, was the starting point of the 3900-foot incline to No. 2 Mine. The No. 2 Mine was  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the tipple at the top of the incline. This mine, at one time the only one in operation, was only one of several in Dunlap in 1920 and was mined by 55 men, 40 of whom were contract coal diggers.

The miners who worked No. 2 Mine had a unique way of descending the incline as soon as their work day was over. These miners had constructed a small device on which they could ride down called an "incline horse." Made of wood with a couple of wheels, it was placed on one of the rails of the incline. It carried one person at a speed of over 60 m.p.h. The miner would get aboard his horse and balance himself with two blocks of wood, which were used as brakes, and then he would take off. The trip down the incline was made in less than a minute, which was a lot faster than walking. Of course, there was danger involved and a number of miners were often injured riding their "incline horse," especially when some youngster greased the rails near the bottom, making it rather difficult to stop.

The coal that was mined at No. 2 was brought out by a narrow gauge steam engine to the tipple where it was weighed and then dumped into seven-ton monitor or incline cars. These monitors were brought up and down the incline by gravity—a single length of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch cable linking the monitors—the descent of the loaded cars was checked by the pull of the ascending empty cars, going up to be loaded. This process continued all through the working day.

The incline was so steep and long that it was impossible to follow the progress of the monitors or incline cars with the naked



The entrance to No. 2 mine

eye. It was thus necessary for the man operating the controlling mechanism (a special telephone line from the bottom to the top of the incline) to use binoculars to see the starting and stopping of the cars. At the bottom of the incline the monitors dumped the coal from No. 2 Mine into a bin from which it was carried to the washer by cars drawn by a small locomotive called a dinky.

The total length of track at Dunlap was ten miles, starting at the end of the beehive ovens. The tracks continued past both batteries and the back of the commissary in the direction of Dunlap (town proper) for a short distance. Then it turned to the north and continued for six miles along and up the valley side of the mountain. Traversing this six-mile-line gave one a series of surprises that made a lasting and pleasant impression; the first



The 3900-foot incline to No. 2 mine. *From left to right* are Harvey Frizzell, Tony Smith, and Blackburn Harmon.

was but a few hundred feet from Dunlap. This was the coal washer, next to which were the roundhouse and machine shop.

This coal washer was almost unique in the world. Only in Belgium had another such been constructed, and it was done after the one had been built in Dunlap. This washer had been constructed in two years and its equipment was the best that could

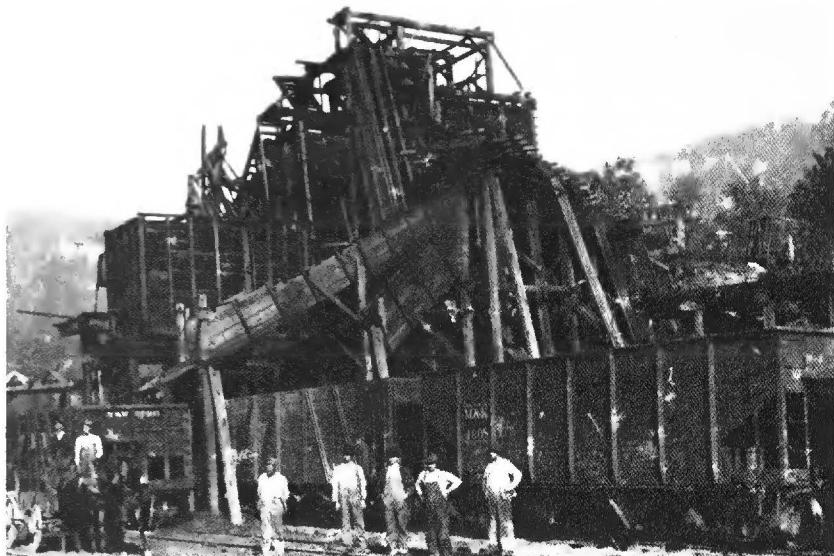
be obtained. Only a severe breakdown could interrupt the operation of the washer, since its equipment was so installed that the work interfered with by a mishap to one or a few of its units was immediately assumed by other units.

Under the railroad tracks passing the mountain side of the washer was a large bin into which coal was dumped from the railway cars. The coal, as needed, was passed through openings in the bin bottom to conveyors underneath which moved the coal up to the crusher in back of the washer. After the coal was crushed it passed through a revolving screen to a belt conveyor that dumped the coal into a bin to await its washing. While in motion on this belt conveyor the coal was weighed by an ingenious scale encasing the belt that recorded the loads much the way an automobile speedometer records mileage. The readings were made through a glass-covered opening in the casing. This same conveyor was fitted with an automatic jumper that could shorten or extend the conveyor to reach any group or all of the coal bins.

The purpose of the washer was to remove the impurities from the coal so that it was then ready to be made into coke. This was accomplished by passing the crushed coal through the washer's six jigs. These jigs were continually flushed with water and the pulsation of the jigs was regulated so as to float the good coal and at the same time allowing the impurities to sink and be discharged through slots to the basement of the washer for removal.

Through the three cells or compartments of each jig three grades of coal could be obtained—nut, wash slack, and fine powder. From the jigs the fine coal dropped on shaking tables sprayed with water from one side of each table. All three grades of coal were washed and mixed when intended for coke. The tables, however, could also separate and deliver each grade of coal singly when so desired. From the troughs on the side of each table the coal was conveyed to bins of 2000 tons capacity to await either shipment or removal to the coke ovens.

All the water used in the washing process drained off the washer basement, and was pumped to the 1000-gallon settling tank behind the washer where it would be used again. In 1920 Aleck Ewton served as the foreman of Dunlap's unique washer.



The tipple at the bottom of the incline

He was assisted by F. M. Howard and the oiling of the many devices was handled by H. H. Torbett.

The necessary power for the coal washer's extensive machinery and pumps was generated in a brick building next to the washer, opposite which were four tanks that supplied water to both the washer and the coke ovens. The tanks also supplied the water crane for the locomotive that made the six-mile run five times every day. Making five trips daily required the rapid movement of cars as well as the train crew, which was made up of the conductor, Willis Moore; the switchman, Emmet Goins; the engineer, Sam Ridley; and the fireman, Ike Kersey. The first trip was made at 6:30 A.M. when the miners for other than No. 2 Mine were taken up the mountain in a coach made over from a freight car. The grade averaged only three per cent for the entire distance of six miles.

No. 7 Mine was reached by a short spin about a quarter of a mile from the end of the line and its entrance was barely discernible through the maze of trees. The entrance to this mine

was on the face of a steep cliff. The pitch of No. 7 incline was 45° and a steam pump was necessary at its entrance for the removal of mine water.

Between the railroad and No. 7 Mine was Brush Creek which continued for almost its entire length parallel to the railroad. Brush Creek provided a number of falls along its course, each forming a pleasant part of the typical mountain scenery of Sequatchie County.

Several buildings, among them a mule stable, a magazine for explosives, and a steam plant, marked the end of the six-mile line. Opposite this cluster of buildings, and over a deep gulley crossed by a two-track trestle, was a clearing that led to a road to No. 6 Mine which had been abandoned before 1920. Barrels were assembled in the clearing with staves cut from timber on the corporation's property.

The railway cars were loaded with coal from a chute 312 feet long at a 32° pitch on the side of the mountain. At the top of the chute was a scale house, from which a narrow gauge track ran to the nearby opening of No. 5 Mine and continued to a depth of nearly 5000 feet in the mine. The deepest point in No. 5 was but 5000 feet from No. 2 Mine and was reached by the 3900 foot incline. The plan was eventually to join both mines. When this was finally accomplished they were off only a few feet—an amazing engineering feat in those days. The coal cars were hauled from the deepest point, a distance of 3000 feet, by mules. Over the remaining 1500 feet to the opening the cars were hauled by 4½-ton twenty-horsepower gasoline motors that developed fifty horsepower when in low gear.

In 1920 the majority of Dunlap's miners worked No. 5 Mine. It was ventilated with a continuous current of air that was brought directly through the mountain and deflected through the various workings by doors and curtains by a 12-foot Crawford disc fan which delivered 50,000 cubic feet of air at 60 r.p.m.

After No. 2 and No. 5 mines were joined they were to be fully worked and then "robbed"; at Dunlap 85 percent of the remaining coal was usually recovered in the act of "robbing." After a mine had been worked out between the rooms, which averaged

150 feet in depth, there was a pillar or wall of coal 25 feet thick between the rooms. There also remained 50-foot pillars of coal between the room entries, the rooms being at right angles to the entries. The process of recovering the coal in the pillars was known as robbing. This was one of the most hazardous jobs because, as the pillars were removed, the earth above caved in and after this the mine was abandoned. Many a miner lost his life in the process of robbing these pillars.

Dunlap coal was mined from what was known as the Sewanee Seam of East Tennessee which consisted of five smaller seams. The first or top seam was called cap rock and was of inferior coal. Etna or blacksmith coal was found in the second seam. Coking or steam coal was found in the third or Sewanee seam. This coal was high in heating units which made it very useful in the coking process. The fourth seam was called either seam No. 2 coal, Bluff, or Red Ash Seam; the bottom seam, No. 1, provided domestic grate or range coal.

Mining of the coal at Dunlap was directed by William Belliss who was mine foreman with 12 years of experience at Dunlap. He was assisted by L. E. Rains who was boss diver and had been in Dunlap for the better part of 10 years.

The great volume of work at Dunlap in the 1920s required a large amount of railroad equipment that consisted of 260 mine dump cars, several miles of mine track, four dinkies, one locomotive, six gondolas, one flat car, and one steam shovel that operated over ten miles of standard gauge track. Movement of work in the yards was expedited under the direction of yard foreman, W. S. Lamb, who had served as county sheriff for 25 years. Master mechanic J. F. Degnan met the demand for maintenance of the equipment.

The two gasoline-motor hauling cars used in No. 5 Mine were maintained in above par operation as the result of a friendly yet keen rivalry between the motormen and riders of each motor. The two motormen were Arcey Hurd and Robert Layne and the riders were A. D. Carden and Earnest Smith. Their rivalry was so intense that for months at a time none of them missed a day, even in work weeks that included all seven days. Because of the

attention given the motors they were very seldom out of operation. This efficiency was not an isolated case at Dunlap, but was illustrative of the corporation personnel who made steady improvement in production.

Dr. R. E. Standifer, a graduate of Atlanta Medical School, located in Dunlap to provide medical attention to whomever needed it. Good sanitary regulations were carried out so that Dunlap was nothing if not healthful.

All the corporation houses were painted and repaired under the direction of W. H. Morrison; all construction of buildings, as well as the maintenance of trestles and tipples, was in charge of G. W. Smith, the foreman of the carpenter shop.

There were many reasons for Dunlap's importance, the greatest of which was the result of its combined efforts in producing beehive coke, one of the necessary raw materials for the manufacture of pig iron. The coke was moved by rail from Dunlap to Chattanooga and was used there with the red iron ore which was shipped from Estelle, Georgia. In Chattanooga the coke and iron ore were combined in the furnace at Tannery Flats which turned out 200 tons of pig iron every 24 hours, when working at full capacity.

In 1919 the furnace at Tannery Flats was closed down for repairs. W. W. Taylor, vice-president and general manager of the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Corporation, was in charge of the renovations of the properties. The furnace of the main plant was overhauled and a new lining was installed. The machinery was adjusted and the lining was dried out over a period of three weeks. Many wooden buildings at the plant were overhauled and made fireproof by concrete plastering. The metal structures of the company were protected by paint. A force of about 75 men were engaged to complete the various details of the repair work.

At the same time many changes were made at the company's coal mine at Dunlap. It was found necessary to overhaul the coal washer completely, in order to shorten the haul from the mine. The practice had been to move part of the output of the mine three miles underground. But it was found better to open the

back of the mine, so a new railroad was constructed up Brush Creek. Several of the coke ovens were put in blast even while the washer was being overhauled because it was discovered that one of the mines was producing very clean coal that did not even need washing. For a few weeks this coal was coked in the ovens without further preparation. W. W. Taylor reported that the coke was of splendid quality.

In order to provide amusement and pleasant conditions for the miners, the company installed water heaters, shower baths, and moving picture halls at both Dunlap and Estelle. The motion picture halls were also used for meetings and social gatherings when films were not being shown. Separate wash houses and amusement places were provided for colored laborers. This practice of segregation was a typical pattern that was followed in the mining towns of those days. The men did the same work but they could not live and eat together as equals.

In 1919 the Southern States Iron and Coal Company purchased the properties of the Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company for a price of \$2,500,000. This included the mining operations at Dunlap. In 1922, however, Southern States Iron and Coal Company suspended mining operations there as a result of the poor economic conditions in the nation's coal fields that had been brought on by overproduction.

In 1928, after standing vacant six years, the property was sold to E. P. Rosamond, a retired capitalist from Birmingham, and E. K. Rosamond, city treasurer of Chattanooga. The deal was closed in New York with representatives of Southern States Iron and Coal Company, but the price paid for all the property holdings, rolling stock, and all equipment was withheld from publication. The purchase included the furnace and factory at Tannery Flats; 15,000 acres of coal land in Sequatchie County near Dunlap; 5000 acres of ore land in Walker County, Georgia, near Estelle; and a 300-acre rock quarry near Flintstone, Georgia.

The coal mines at Dunlap were ready for business, with a 500-ton capacity coal washer, 200 beehive coke ovens, and a village where the workmen could live. The 5000 acres of ore land

in Georgia were equipped with the necessary machinery to operate the lines, and the rock quarry at Flintstone was said to be sufficiently large to take care of all the requirements of the blast furnace for many years. The factory site in Tannery Flats consisted of 20 acres that provided adequate space for expansion. The factory was equipped with independent pumping and electrical plants, four blowing engines (two of which were considered modern for their day), and the finest type of Nesta machinery. M. F. McMillen had been in charge of the works and had kept the machinery in first-class condition. So even though the furnace had been closed about six years, the plant could have been put into operation immediately. Nevertheless, no plans for re-opening the plant were released.

As far as can be determined, the Rosamond brothers, who had been identified with the iron and steel business for years, never restarted the mining operations. The reasons for this were no doubt the economic conditions of late 1928 and early 1929 as the country headed into that economic abyss known as the Great Depression. The Depression ended any hopes of operating the mines at Dunlap and from 1929 to the present they have lain in disrepair and deterioration until very little remains except the rubble of the coke ovens and piles of slate at the top and bottom of the mountain.

In 1929 the old Chattanooga Iron and Coal Company's blast furnace, the only one in Chattanooga equipped to turn out pig iron, was razed. The plant and furnace were destroyed because the lack of good coal and ore supplies in close proximity, combined with a rather small capacity, meant that the furnace could not successfully compete with several big furnaces in Birmingham and elsewhere in Alabama. M. F. McMillen was in charge of wrecking the furnace that he had maintained for 14 years.

Before the furnace was dismantled, master mechanic McMillen sang its swan song in an interview in the *Chattanooga Times* in December of 1928. He said she was the only—and the best—blast furnace in Chattanooga, and that her history went back far beyond anyone's memory. He recalled that he had heard stories

about the little furnace being hauled in by oxen from Rome, Georgia; that she had started as a charcoal furnace about 1870 and in 1890 she was changed from charcoal to a coke furnace. McMillen went on to describe how she had done her part during World War I, when she was counted as one of the best-equipped little furnaces in the United States. "She sure did turn out pig iron like 'sixty'" while the war was going on, McMillen recalled.

One day in 1922 the mines in Dunlap just stopped after one shift finished its work. The men evidently felt that they would return to work the next day, but that day never came—it was all over. Tools and cars loaded with coal remained in the mines along with all the other equipment such as the drum, track, and dinkies.

As the months lengthened into years and the miners left the company town to work in other mines or other jobs, the residents of Dunlap realized that the mines would never open again. No one seemed to know what had happened or what had gone wrong. One day the mines were booming and the next day the work had stopped, which no doubt seemed fitting for this period, soon to be called the Great Depression.

After a short time residents of the county began to salvage what remained of the mining operations. Track on which the train and dinkies had run was the first to go as it was cut up for scrap iron. This was followed by the metal parts of the washer, the dinkies, the cars, and anything else that had any value as scrap iron. The huge drum that had raised and lowered the cars off the mountain was cut up and sold for scrap. In a short time there was little left except, deep within the mountain, mining cars still loaded with coal and no doubt still there today slowly rusting away, the rooms in which they sit sadly and silently falling in while no one is there to see it or hear it.

During the Bicentennial some citizens wanted to make a living museum out of the old mining operations, but like the mining operation that, too, fell through. In a few more years the mountain will reclaim all that was once one of the biggest mining operations in this part of the state and no one will even know where it had once existed.

## The County During the Depression

Sequatchie County moved from "boom" times to "hard times" in the 1920s but it was not really a result of the Great Depression. When the crash came in 1929 Sequatchie County and its residents had already become accustomed to hard times. The closing of the coal mines had brought depression to the Sequatchie County area years before and many families had already been forced to move away to other areas to find work. Most of the black workers had left by 1929 and those who stayed had no reason to go anywhere else. The people who remained could hardly tell when the Great Depression started. People simply reverted to the life styles that they had known before the opening of the mines. They lived off the land, raising whatever they needed for food and storing it away for the winter months. Life was drudgery to many of these people who had gotten accustomed to the idea of having a little money in their pocket. Extra money, new clothes, or motion pictures were things of the past for the people of Sequatchie County. They survived any way they could by scratching out a living farming or sometimes by "moonshining."

Sequatchie County remained backward and behind most of the rest of the state. The population continued to decline as the younger people moved away in their search for employment. There was simply nothing to do in Sequatchie County. In the past a few businesses, such as a furniture maker and canning factory, were started but they failed to last any great length of time.

President Franklin Roosevelt's programs provided some aid for the people of Sequatchie County. Some of the young men joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and were shipped off to various camps across the country where they played a very useful role in protecting and developing reservoirs, watersheds, forests, and parks. The young men who served in the CCC were between the age of 18 and 25 and the regimen of the camp was very much like life in the army. These men were paid a small sum, which they usually had sent to their families back home, since all their needs were provided for by the government. This

extra money was very important to some of the families in Sequatchie County.

Another program started by President Roosevelt was the Works Progress Administration, better known as the WPA. This organization was headed by Harry L. Hopkins, a New York social worker, who tackled the problem of aid for the unemployed. In Hopkin's view the answer lay in "work relief" not government "doles" or handouts. The work-relief program led to a certain amount of made work that critics referred to as "boondoggling," but it also built schools, roads, and airports; improved parks and waterways; produced plays and guidebooks and thus sustained the morale and preserved the skills of millions of Americans who were unable, through no fault of their own, to find private employment. Work was done in Sequatchie County on roads, sidewalks, and drainage ditches. The money received from the work helped a number of the residents of Sequatchie County to survive through the times of the Great Depression.

The National Youth Administration was formed to provide work for young people in school. The wages they earned from public works projects would hopefully enable them to remain in school and secure an education. The most important NYA project in the county was the community building in Dunlap. It was constructed through the efforts of local school-age children and provided them with badly needed income. They worked a few weeks at a time then others would take their jobs in order to benefit as many as possible. The building was finished in 1940 and is still in use as an office building; it also houses the Sequatchie County Public Library. The NYA also built the Cagle school.

#### *Tennessee Valley Authority*

In 1933 the most striking innovation of the Roosevelt Administration was begun as an effort to rescue an entire region from the throes of the Great Depression. The area of the Tennessee Valley was an outstanding example of what later generations would know as an "underdeveloped" territory. The Tennessee River and its tributaries often flooded causing damage to homes and build-

ings and washing away the topsoil. The forests in this region were thin and overcut, the income of the region was less than half the national average, and in some of the counties over half the families were on some kind of relief. Only two out of every hundred families had electricity. With all these problems the Tennessee Valley region did have one outstanding and valuable power site, at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska saw in this the possibility of developing cheap electric power that could transform the lives of the residents of the Tennessee Valley. The disposition of the Muscle Shoals plant had been a hotly debated issue in Congress since World War I. Senator Norris's bills providing for government operation of hydroelectric plants had been the subject of numerous Republican presidential vetoes. President Hoover had angrily denounced the idea of public power in 1931.

Many problems converged in the Tennessee Valley region. Besides electric power there was need for flood control, for fertilizer production, for inland waterways, and above all, for a way to break the endless cycle of human poverty in the region. President Roosevelt saw all of these not as separate problems but as elements of a single problem. The answer was not a collection of separate and unrelated reforms but a multipurpose development under the guidance of one authority. In April of 1933 FDR called on the Congress of the United States to establish a corporation, clothed with the power of government but possessed with the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise, charged with national planning for a complete river watershed.

Power companies of the area were very upset and led the opposition against the bill, claiming that the Tennessee Valley region had all the power capacity that it could absorb for many years to come. Despite this opposition Congress passed a bill in May of 1933 creating the Tennessee Valley Authority. The TVA built dams and power plants, cleared the rivers, replenished the soil, rebuilt the forests, and brought the magic of electricity into many homes in the Tennessee Valley. The Tennessee Valley region shone with the radiance of a new life and new hope. By 1940 the 21 hydroelectric plants of the Tennessee Valley Au-

thority were delivering 3.19 billion kilowatt hours of electricity at about half the average national rate and the TVA was playing a major part in the economic flowering of the area.

Spreading low-cost electricity was also the job of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This organization loaned money at low interest rates of 3 per cent to cooperative power systems. In seven years, the REA increased the number of farms supplied with electricity from 750,000 to 2125 million.

These two programs had direct influence on Sequatchie County. Before the institution of the Tennessee Valley Authority, electricity in the county had been supplied by the Southern Cities Power Company which had started its operations in 1926 at Lusk in Bledsoe County. As a result of TVA and REA the Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative was created on September 1, 1939. The cooperative serves the counties of Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Grundy, and Marion with the main office headquartered at South Pittsburg. The cooperative began its existence by taking over properties in its area that had been purchased by the Tennessee Valley Authority in August of 1939 from the Tennessee Electric Power Company. The cooperative was very vigorous in its programs to build lines to serve new customers throughout the valley. Their major emphasis was on rural customers and they promoted the use of electricity by stressing the lower rates that they offered. The Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative has a maintenance building and offices, finished in the latter part of 1959, in Dunlap. The cooperative is owned by the members and power is purchased from the Tennessee Valley Authority and sold to the members with the only added charges being for the maintenance of the cooperative.

#### *Social Security Act*

In 1935 the Social Security Act was passed by Congress on the initiative of President Roosevelt. This program was to provide payments of \$10 to \$85 monthly starting in 1942, but because of the desperate needs of pensioners, the starting date was advanced to 1940. Aid was also to be provided to families with dependent children and unemployment compensation was to be

provided through a federal-state plan. Provisions were also made for the blind or crippled, and delinquent children. As a result of this act the Department of Public Welfare was started in Tennessee with every county having to approve and set up an office. The Sequatchie County Department of Public Welfare was established upon the authority of the Social Security Act by the public acts of 1937 and amended in 1953. The first supervisor of the Department of Public Welfare for Sequatchie County was William Whitlow. This office continues to operate in the county under the supervision of Sarah Jo Walker. The department is located in Dunlap and provides aid to the disabled, medical aid to the aged, and also operates the food stamp program for Sequatchie County.

The United States was changed by the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the changes he brought about are still affecting us today because they were truly grass root changes. They touched everybody's lives, even in remote places like Sequatchie County. Peoples' lives were made a little better here because of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Social Security Act. Sequatchie County was finally headed into the twentieth century with a lot of catching up to do along the way.

## World War II

President Franklin D. Roosevelt did not end the Great Depression as some people think. It was a war, the like of which no one had ever seen before, that pulled this country out of that economic chasm. It was started in Europe by that crazed madman Adolf Hitler and in Asia as a result of the expansionist ideas of the military leadership of Japan. Their aggression soon had all of Europe and most of Asia in a war, but the United States remained out of it because of the strong antiwar and isolationist sentiment that permeated much of American society. But these ideas were soon swamped by the tide of American anger at the unexpected Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The bombs

that pulverized our naval base there on December 7, 1941, also blasted the isolationists into silence and united this country in a war effort that led to the defeat of both Japan and Germany, while conquering the Great Depression and bringing this country world leadership and prosperity.

The war directly touched Sequatchie County when an army training base for Camp Forrest at Tullahoma was set up near Cagle community on Cagle Mountain. Many men from throughout the country were stationed there for a period during the war, adding dramatically to the income of the county. An air strip was constructed with the assistance of many local people. Big planes could be seen landing and taking off almost every day. Sometimes they were loaded with paratroopers, and then the sky would be filled as they practiced jumping to get ready for the real thing, somewhere in Europe. A great deal of artillery practice was carried on, and the residents of the county became accustomed to the sounds of exploding shells echoing across the valley. The World War had come to Sequatchie County. When the war was finally over, some of these men returned to marry sweethearts from the county. James Tyner, who later became postmaster for Sequatchie County, and Stanley Rustic, from Massachusetts, are two examples.

Many men served their nation well in World War II and some of them were from Sequatchie County. A monument to those who gave that last full measure of their devotion was raised in 1950 on the courthouse lawn. Erected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, it bears the names of 23 Sequatchie Countians who died in World Wars I and II (see appendix).

## Recreation

One of the few remaining free-flowing streams of the eastern United States, the Sequatchie River flows much as it has for centuries down the valley to the Tennessee River. Its natural beauty has made the river the most popular family canoeing stream in

the tristate region of East Tennessee, North Georgia, and North Alabama.

The magnificent escarpment of the Sequatchie Valley and its 1400 foot depth in the Dunlap region make the valley one of the top three hang gliding areas of the United States. Almost daily through the spring, summer, and fall the colorful hang gliders can be seen high above the valley floor.

There are several public recreational facilities within Sequatchie County. In the immediate area a park and ballfield south of the city are operated by Sequatchie County, there is a privately-owned par three golf course, and fields and playgrounds are located adjacent to many area schools. Within a 30-mile radius are Fall Creek Falls State Park, Harrison Bay State Park, Booker T. Washington State Park, and various other facilities along the Chickamauga and Nickajack lakes of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) system. These public use areas provide excellent opportunities for camping, hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, golfing, and hunting. In addition, a drive-in theater, a swimming pool, a skating rink, a putt-putt golf course, and a canoe-rental for boating on the Sequatchie River, are available.

Local sports have also played an important role in the social life of the city. Football has been the most popular sport since the 1940s and the city and county have taken great pride in their successful teams. Eugene Trammell, who coached for six years in the mid-50s, was one of the most successful coaches of the high school football team. The 1973 Sequatchie County High School squad, coached by Jimmy Garren and Larry Sprouse, won 12 games. Their only loss was to Dyer County in the Class A Championship finals. A number of local gridders have played in the college ranks; the most heralded is Jeff Cartwright, currently at Vanderbilt. Basketball has also occupied an important spot in local sports; both boy's and girl's teams have often gone to regional tournaments. Two recent boy's teams competed in the state Class A tournament in Murfreesboro. Softball, baseball, and pee wee football also have organized leagues in the county.

Various clubs and organizations have played a very prominent role in the lives of the citizens of Sequatchie County. In the

early history of the county these organizations and clubs provided a much-needed social outlet.

The Independent Order of Oddfellows, which had a hall in Dunlap in the 1890s, was one of the earliest organizations in the county. The Masons, with their affiliates such as the Order of Eastern Star, Rainbows, and DeMolay, are very active in the county and maintain a lodge in Dunlap.

The 4-H Club has been important since the late 1930s. It appears to have been started by J. L. Ikard, who was probably the first agricultural extension agent. L. L. Swafford, who was agricultural extension agent for about 30 years, saw the 4-H Club membership grow to about 600. Swafford was the instigator of the 4-H Club Fair.

In 1982 a chapter of the American Business Women's Association was formed with much initial success. Kappa Delta Gamma, an organization for female educators, has been very active in the county. Patsy Pope, a local educator, was elected state president of this organization in 1983. Home demonstration clubs have been very active and are still important. They meet every few weeks throughout the country in various communities.

The Dunlap Lions Club and the Dunlap Book Club, probably the most prominent clubs in the county, deserve special mention. The Dunlap Book Club is perhaps the oldest continuing social organization of its type in the county. Mrs. W. B. Stewart, who moved to Dunlap from Stevenson, Alabama, as a bride, was the guiding light in organizing the club along the lines of one in her former home. At the first meeting on September 27, 1911, 24 members were served cookies and lemonade while electing Mrs. Stewart president and Mrs. J. B. (Ida Jim) Smith secretary. Books were ordered from T. H. Payne's Book Store in Chattanooga, as they were for many years. Early in 1912 smallpox broke out in the county and some of the first books, which had been in the homes of smallpox cases, had to be replaced. For many years the book club met twice a month at 2:00 PM. The meetings were very formal and all the members were expected to wear hats and gloves. The club now meets once a month in a member's home, refreshments are served, and there is usually a

program. Mrs. Lilla Hege currently is president of the Dunlap Book Club.

The Dunlap Lions Club is one of the most active and most important civic clubs in the county. Wesley W. Harmon, superintendent of Sequatchie County schools, was a major figure in organizing the club in 1945. B. F. Groover was elected the first president, and Frank Barker was elected secretary-treasurer. Over the years the club has met at many different places. At the present, meetings are held at the Dunlap Restaurant on the first and third Tuesdays; Ladies Night is observed on fifth Tuesdays. The purpose of the Lions Club is service, and the organization in Dunlap has rendered many types of service during its existence. The club has assumed some of the functions of a community chest, a chamber of commerce, a travelers' aid, or other organization as the need arose.

The Lions Club has accomplished or helped to accomplish many projects for the county. In the field of medicine they maintain a bloodbank, provide wheelchairs and transportation to hospitals and clinics, while also maintaining an eye-testing service for school children, and a glaucoma clinic. The Lions Club has constructed bleachers at the county park, secured a football stadium, and sponsored and equipped sports teams such as the Dixie Youth baseball team. This civic organization has helped secure new phone, gas, water, and sewer systems; they have helped organize funding for the hospital and Sequatchie Haven Apartments and have supported the development of an industrial park. At Christmas they provide food baskets for the needy, sponsor the Santa Claus parade, and work with the city to provide Christmas lights. They have recently given their support to the county's Chemical People Project to inform teenagers and their parents of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

The Lions Club was instrumental in the organization of the first high school marching band in 1953. On the invitation of the club, Bailey Music Company of Chattanooga sold instruments to a number of students and conducted classes three days a week. The band went on to win numerous trophies in competition over the years.

The O. K. Hege Memorial Horse Show is sponsored by the Lions Club as a major way of funding their various activities. Hege was instrumental in starting the horse show in 1964, which has become a major annual event. It features classes for yearlings, pleasure horses, 3 racking horse classes, and 11 walking horse classes. In 1983, \$2000 was offered in prizes. Usually held the last Saturday in June at the Lions Club Horse Show Arena in the county park, the show draws entrants from nearby areas and surrounding states.

Other clubs and organizations have come and gone, but the Lions Club of Dunlap has an unbroken record of 38 years of service to the community. It remains the strongest civic organization in Sequatchie County.

Other annual events also play an important part in the life of the county. Each of the cemeteries has an annual decoration day usually followed by a covered dish supper; a practice begun many years ago. At this time families and friends socialize, giving young people a chance to hear stories of the past from their elders.

The county fair is another event that many citizens look forward to each year. It had its beginnings as a 4-H Club fair, but over the years has grown to a county fair drawing hundreds of participants and entrants. Competitions in various garden products, livestock, sewing, photography, baked goods, canning, and various arts and crafts are featured.

In the last few years a number of new celebrations have been started, including the Labor Day Parade in 1981, the Back Door Opry the same year, and the annual fiddlers contest that draws hundreds of people.

Every community has special days or events that entice people back home to relatives and old friends. For the folks of Sequatchie County and Dunlap the big event is the Fourth of July. For generations Sequatchie Countians have celebrated Independence Day the old-fashioned way with a parade and festivities on the courthouse lawn and in the community. The population of Dunlap swells as crowds come to observe and participate in these events reliving some of America's past.

The writer remembers how he looked forward to the Fourth



Sequatchie County Courthouse was built in 1911 in the Colonial Revival style by W. K. Brown.

of July. It always seemed a special day, a day of magic, the most exciting day of the entire year. There were always relatives who came for a visit on that day and there were cousins who had not been seen all year. As soon as summer vacation began young boys started mowing yards, running errands, picking and selling blackberries and dewberries. Every cent was saved, to be spent on fireworks of all types or on games and food on the courthouse grounds.

The highlight of the Fourth was the parade, a tradition since 1949. It started at 10:00 AM without fail and passed along Rankin Avenue through the center of Dunlap. There were always police cars, horses, antique cars, floats, local dignitaries, and politicians seeking votes. Candy, gum, and other treats were thrown to the children who lined the parade route. In recent years plaques have been awarded to the best floats in three categories: commercial, community, and most unusual. In 1983 there were 125 entries in

the parade and between 6000 and 8000 spectators. Another major part of the celebration is the music. A big square dance is held in conjunction with the parade, usually the night before, and features some of the best square dance music in the area.

Various groups in the county help in the planning and organization of the activities. Sponsorship in the last few years has been provided by the Sequatchie County Rescue Squad. Working with them have been the Band Boosters, Dunlap Lions Club, the high school football team, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, the Cancer Society, and various softball teams. Area churches, the 4-H'ers, and other local groups sponsor booths on the courthouse lawn where one can find barbequed chicken, homemade ice cream, and various handicrafts. The Fourth of July is truly an event that draws support throughout the community—everyone seems to be involved in one way or another. It illustrates the spirit of community sharing and history that is Sequatchie County.

### Moonshining

Sequatchie County has one industry that goes back to the time of the first settlers. This is the ancient art of whiskey making. The excellent water, inaccessible coves, and the remoteness of the mountains have made the conditions ideal for the moonshiner. Many of the mountaineers have plied this illicit trade for years, ever alert to local sheriffs and revenue officers who have tried to catch them. Federal revenue officers have described the section along Walden Ridge as one of the greatest areas of moonshine production in the country.

The moonshiners were very cunning in the location of their stills. The barrels were carried far up the hidden hollows and some were secreted in deep caverns or abandoned mines. The stillers developed very effective systems of lookouts and signals, and oftentimes the lawmen approached a still only to find its owners had seized the more valuable parts of their equipment and fled.

The county sheriffs adopted differing attitudes toward the



Moonshiners and their still on Fredonia Mountain. Notice that three of the four men have scratched their faces from the original photograph to conceal their identity.

moonshine, but most were sincere in their desire to banish stills from the county. But stilling was an ingrained habit with many people. They saw whiskey and whiskey-making as a fundamental part of their lives and in no wise wicked. It was also an economic prop that supported their families. To many of these mountain people the government was destroying their property and imprisoning them unjustly.

One county sheriff in recent times was especially tough on the local moonshiners. In ten raids in a short period of time in 1958, County Sheriff Lum Camp and his deputies confiscated 67 gallons of unstamped shiskey, 1460 pounds of sugar, and several "black pots," destroyed 1400 gallons of mash, and made four arrests. The majority of these raids were in the Lewis Chapel Community on Walden Ridge, about 15 miles west of Dunlap.

## Dunlap

Dunlap was originally known as Coops Creek. One of the first houses in town was built by William Rankin in 1852. Since 1858 Dunlap has served as the county seat. On April 23, 1909, the town was incorporated as the "Taxing District of Dunlap," and remains the only incorporated town in the county. The governing power was vested in three commissioners, one of whom was elected mayor by the others. W. V. Freiley, J. W. C. Jones, and J. A. Lamb were the first commissioners. They held office until the first Saturday in May 1911 when an election was held, thus establishing the commissioner's term of office at two years. Regular commission meetings were held on the second Monday of January, April, July, and October. The Taxing District established and maintained a system of public schools managed by three directors, the first being J. W. Honey, W. L. Smith, and T. S. Williams.

On April 12, 1927, Dunlap was incorporated as the Town of Dunlap, under the Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 369. The governing authority remained vested in three commissioners, one of whom was elected mayor. The first three commissioners under this incorporation were Hugh Allen, W. H. Clack, and D. M. Harris, who was elected mayor. They served until the first Monday in May 1929, when an election was held. Their terms were thus established at two years. The positions of city marshal and city recorder were provided for.

In 1941 the Town of Dunlap was incorporated under Senate Bill 356 as the City of Dunlap. The city presently has a commission form of government, made up of four commissioners and a mayor, each having an equal vote. Regular meetings are held once each month and special meetings as needed. The commissioners and mayor now serve four-year staggered terms. Two commissioners or two commissioners and the mayor run every two years on the first Saturday in May. The day-to-day activities of the city are handled by a city field superintendent.

### *Demographic Trends*

Around the time of World War I, Dunlap had a population of approximately 1500. The basic stimulus causing this concen-



Dunlap in 1923. From left to right are the Moore Hotel, Smith Drugs-tore, and the Sequatchie County Bank.

tration of people was the local coal mining industry. Advertisers in the first high school annual, published in 1916, give a good idea of the commercial life of the community. Leading businesses included: Dunlap Lumber and Tie Company; Dunlap Mercantile Company (the first brick building in town), owned by C. E. Burrow, W. V. Freiley, H. P. Payne, and J. T. Walker; S. T. Cannon Variety Store; Dunlap Grocery Company; Dunlap Photo Gallery, operated by Simon Bradford Boyd; S. C. Honey Restaurant; Central Produce and Grain Company, owned by Charles L. Roberts; Smith and Sons' City Drug Store; W. H. Smith and Company (funeral directors), Sam Smith manager; J. B. Johnson Grocery Store; the Moore House; Standefer and Smith, owned by G. A. Standefer, W. B. Standefer, and W. L. Smith; Sequatchie County Bank; and two tonsorial parlors: Star Barber Shop, owned by Ed Britton, and the City Barber Shop, owned by W. M. Ellis.

Beginning in the 1920s oil began to replace coal as the na-

tion's major source of inexpensive energy, and production of usable coal from the local mines became unprofitable. The mines closed and many people left the community. Consequently, the population began to decrease until it reached a low of 721 in 1940. Since that time, however, the population of Dunlap and Sequatchie County has increased steadily. The growth pattern is similar to that of other small rural communities in Tennessee. In the early 1960s Dunlap was basically a commercial trading center for the rich agricultural area of the Sequatchie River Valley, with some isolated coal mining in the mountains surrounding the city. During the 1950s and 1960s the only major industry was a shirt factory, the Spartan Manufacturing Company, which opened in 1953 and employed over 1000 workers during its peak years.

Between 1963 and 1970 Dunlap completed water and waste water collection systems for the community and provided for the development of an industrial park. The availability of these municipal services has been responsible for the location of several major industries in Dunlap since the mid-1960s. This industrial growth coupled with an annexation in 1960 resulted in a population increase of 646 between 1960 and 1970, more than twice the total increase between 1940 and 1960. Another annexation in June of 1972 increased the population of Dunlap to 2755 and increased its area from 1340 to over 5510 acres. Dunlap's population reached 3681 in 1980, a 120.2 percent change from 1970. Strong, steady population growth is projected for the next four decades. Although this will be a great benefit to the city, it will also be a challenge to provide the services that such growth will demand.

Following the Arab oil embargo of 1973 and the subsequent increase in oil prices, coal has once again become competitive with oil as a major source of energy. To reduce its dependence on foreign energy sources, the United States has begun increasing the development of existing coal reserves. As a direct result, several major coal companies have expressed interest in expanding their operations along the Cumberland Plateau and Walden Ridge areas of the Sequatchie Valley. This should result

in even greater population increases, with a resultant increase in demands on existing municipal services.

### *Schools*

The city of Dunlap does not currently operate any public schools. Consolidation of the county schools, however, resulted in four of the county's five public schools being located in the city, providing an elementary through high school education.

Beginning in 1963, consolidation left the county with three elementary schools: Dunlap, Griffith (in the southern part of the city), named for Superintendent Grady Griffith, and Lone Oak. Although people were unhappy with the closing of so many schools, very few can now remember the local schools of 20 years ago.

Another educational change was the creation a few years later of Sequatchie County Middle School in the building of the former Dunlap Elementary School. Kindergarten and grades one through four attended Griffith or Lone Oak elementary schools. Grades five through eight attended the new middle school. In 1978 a new high school was erected on State Route 28, just inside the city limits at the southern end of Dunlap, at a cost of over \$2 million. Part of the old high school was turned into a junior high school to relieve crowding at the elementary and middle school. The gymnasium built in 1954 and the eight-classroom area constructed in 1957 are being used; the older part was torn down. There are now five schools in the county: Sequatchie County High School (grades 9-12), Sequatchie County Junior High (7-8), Sequatchie County Middle School (4-6), Griffith Elementary (K-3), and Lone Oak Elementary (K-6). The only other school is the privately operated Seventh Day Adventist School. High school students also have use of the Bledsoe-Sequatchie Vocational Center, jointly operated with Bledsoe County, some ten miles from Dunlap. Courses in auto mechanics, auto body work, and health occupations, among others, are offered to provide students with saleable skills.

The nearest institutions of higher learning are the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Chattanooga State Technical

Community College, both located some 30 miles south of Dunlap. These schools, along with Tennessee Technological University at Cookeville, have traditionally drawn a large number of Sequatchie Countians in pursuit of higher education.

### *Services*

Medical facilities for Dunlap and the Sequatchie County area are provided by the 49-bed Sequatchie General Hospital, opened in 1955 by the Seventh Day Adventist Church at a cost of \$57,000, assisted by a county bond issue. An addition was built in 1963 at a cost of \$79,000. The hospital is now owned and operated by Republic Health Corporation, the largest privately held hospital management company in the nation. The privately owned Dunlap Medical Clinic and Valley Medical clinic furnish out-patient care. The Sequatchie Health Care Center, a 60-bed facility, provides skilled and intermediate nursing care for the elderly.

Primary access to Dunlap is via U.S. Highway 127 connecting Chattanooga and Crossville. Access will be provided to I-24 at Jasper upon completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System State Route 28 between Dunlap and Jasper. Completion of this system's Corridor J will connect with State Route 8, linking Cookeville and I-40 to Soddy-Daisy and Chattanooga, thus providing east-west access to Sequatchie Valley and increasing development potential. The system is expected to be completed by 1985.

Freight service for the valley is provided by local trucking lines and by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, giving access to markets for agricultural products, coal, and timber produced in the valley. The nearest airline service, commercial or charter, operates out of Chattanooga's Lovell Field, about 32 miles southeast of Dunlap.

In 1965 the city of Dunlap completed construction and placed in operation a municipal gas system, with gas supplied by the East Tennessee Gas Transmission Company, one of the largest pipeline operators in the country. The city experienced many financial problems with the system and ended in default of their

bond payments. However, the system is more financially sound now and is under the management of engineer Ray Banard.

The city of Dunlap owns both water and waste water collection facilities. In 1962 the city bought out the Gravity Water Company, a privately owned utility which obtained its water from a spring at the corner of Water and Walnut streets in the southeastern part of town. This source was supplemented by a spring at an elevation of 800 feet near the southwest corner of town and a well drilled nearby. Today the major water supply for the city is the Sequatchie River, from which water is pumped to a treatment station. In 1969, with the aid of federal grants and loans, the city constructed waste water collection and treatment facilities to serve both the central core and the industrial park. The facility includes approximately ten miles of collection and outfall sewers, a lift station, and an activated sludge waste water treatment plant with a capacity of 0.20 million gallons a day.

The city of Dunlap operates a volunteer fire department that also serves the county. Dunlap provides the major financial support and the county contributes a yearly grant for countywide protection. The fire department has improved dramatically in a short time. Just a few years ago it consisted of the chief, six volunteers, 1500 feet of hose, a W. S. Darley pumper, ladders, and other necessary equipment. Now the department has a chief, 18 members, five vehicles, and enough other equipment to make it one of the best volunteer fire departments in Tennessee. Many of the firemen have had extensive training in fire-fighting and life-saving techniques.

Sequatchie County has two banks, both located in Dunlap. Sequatchie County Bank, organized in 1905 with a capital stock of \$10,000, is the oldest. William A. Moore, who served under Gen. Joseph Wheeler in the Civil War, was the first president. H. C. Farmer, Lawrence Gray, W. H. Lassater, W. A. Moore, J. L. Rogers, T. L. Stewart, and W. R. Thurman made up the first board of directors. During the banking crisis of the Great Depression, Sequatchie County Bank was one of only a few in the county that remained solvent and open to its customers.

Citizens Bank was organized in 1972 by a group of local cit-

izens with capitalization of \$500,000. Glenn Barker served as the first president, with Henry Phillips vice president and chief executive officer. The first board of trustees was composed of Glenn Barker, Preston Cates, Dr. Charles Graves, Henry Phillips, W. L. Rogers, Elmer Studer, and Dr. J. L. Wilhoit.

The first telephone system in the county was organized in 1914 as the Sequatchie Valley Mutual Telephone Company. C. E. Burrow, John Rogers, and W. L. Smith were among the first directors. The Pikeville Rural Telephone Cooperative purchased the company in June of 1957. Two years later the phones were changed from a crank to a dial system and a branch office was opened in Dunlap. Today, telephone service in the county is provided by the Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, whose main office is in Pikeville. The cooperative is also involved in the construction of a cable television system for the two counties and has received a loan of \$2 million from the Rural Electrification Agency for the project. It is expected to be completed in the fall of 1983 and will provide cable service of 11 channels to the residents of the county.

Sequatchie County's first radio station, WSVC, went on the air in 1980. Broadcasting from the Lofty Building in Dunlap, it was started by Harry Morgan of Knoxville. The station plays country and western music and operates during the daylight hours with an output of 5000 watts. Now managed by Rick Wing, who has brought many new ideas to the station, it provides numerous public service announcements that keep the citizens informed.

### Surrounding Communities

Surrounding Dunlap are a number of small communities such as Daus, Mount Airy, Fredonia, Lone Oak, Cagle and Cartwright. Many years ago these communities were distinct, their residents very proud of where they lived, and there were quite a few rivalries between them and Dunlap. Baseball and softball games were a major expression of this rivalry. The author remembers watching many baseball teams from these communities as they battled on Sunday afternoons. As the years passed,

however, transportation and communication have improved and the distinctions between these communities have almost ceased to exist. The community schools have almost all been closed. In 1957 there were eight elementary schools in the county, but with consolidation there are now only two left. The local stores that carried many needed items and the local post offices where mail was picked up are almost nonexistent. The only post office in the county is in Dunlap. Families that might once have come to Dunlap only every few months now are able to drive to the city in a few minutes, do their shopping, and return home.

### *Daus*

The community that is now known as Daus is one of the oldest in Sequatchie County. It is located in the southern portion of the county and is about four or five miles from the center of Dunlap. The community began in the early 1800s with the settlement of the area by the family of William Stone, who named the community Delphi.

As time passed the Stone family was forced by financial problems to sell large amounts of their property to Daus Rogers. A disagreement over property lines ensued between Rogers and the Stones, particularly over a spring situated near the property line between them. Both parties claimed the spring as their own. The disagreement ended up in court where the Stone family prevailed. Strangely, a few days later, the spring dried up and reappeared a few yards over on the Daus Rogers property. Rogers, however, remained very bitter over the incident and never forgave the Stones.

A few years later the railroad became interested in some of Rogers' property for the purpose of building a depot for the train. Rogers agreed to sell some of his property on the condition that the name of the depot could never be Delphi, Stonesville, or anything remotely relating to the Stones. The railroad owners accepted this clause and decided to call the depot Daus.

Nevertheless the community continued to be known as Delphi and the post office continued to be known as Delphi. For many years this was no doubt very confusing: all the freight was

shipped through Daus, but the bills or receipts went through the post office at Delphi.

At some time in the early 1900s a leading citizen at Delphi, Fred Wilson, was finally able to change the name of the post office from Delphi to Daus, since there were very few of the Stone family left to object. Since that time the community has been known as Daus.

At one time Daus appeared on the way to rivaling Dunlap. In the 1920s, when the coalfields were booming throughout the Appalachian area, S. L. Rogers started a mining operation known as Witco. An incline was constructed to the top of a nearby mountain and the first trip down the incline was November 27, 1927, on Thanksgiving day. The mining continued a few years, but soon fell victim to the economic depression that befell the coal fields of the '20s and '30s.

#### *Mount Airy*

The community of Mount Airy is located in the northern portion of Sequatchie County about five to six miles from Dunlap near the Bledsoe County line. It is probably the oldest community in Sequatchie County as settlers moved in to the area around 1806.

Mount Airy had its beginnings as Madison or Old Madison and served as the first county seat of Bledsoe County. The Jonathan Pope family from Mount Airy, North Carolina, probably gave the community its present name. Their farm was also known for a time as the Mount Airy Farm, as some of the old deeds show.

In 1830 a post office was assigned to the community under the name Mount Airy. Thomas P. Kelly was the first postmaster. Other early postmasters include Ephraim Ebins, Adam Lamb, Albert Lloyd, Jonathan Pope, Lavender Pope, M. N. Pope, and Thomas A. Pope. In 1857 the Mount Airy community became part of the new county of Sequatchie.

The Pope and Johnson Store has been a landmark of Mount Airy for many years and is one of the oldest continuing businesses under the same name and family ownership in the county.

It was started September 17, 1906, by T. A. Pope and J. A. Johnson. It was expanded in 1917 and 1927, before moving to a new location on the highway in October of 1954. As part of their business they operated "rolling stores" in Bledsoe and Sequatchie Counties. J. A. Johnson recalled selling crossties for 15¢ and 30¢, but that people wouldn't move them for that today. Saddles, horse and buggy equipment, and farm equipment were major items on the "rolling store." Pope and Johnson continued to operate their "rolling store" until the mid-1970s when it made its last run driven by Buddy Freeman.

#### *Fredonia*

Fredonia is a small community seven or eight miles west of Dunlap on one of the surrounding mountains. The history of the area is rather vague. One of the early settlers and largest landowners was Jess Land. Thus for a period of time the area was known as Land's Chapel. At the very top of the mountain was a mining community known as The Top. Both of those communities had their own schools to serve the needs of their children. In the early 1900s Frank Long, a wealthy landowner, decided to deed some of his land to the community for a school and a church building that all denominations could use. He stipulated in the deed that when the property ceased to be used for a school or church that it should revert to his heirs.

In 1916 the property was used to build a school and combine the students at Land's Chapel and The Top. Some discussion was held and it was agreed to name the school Fredonia, because it would be a "free" school and the land for it was "donated." It is quite possible that it was originally known as "Freedonor" but gradually became corrupted to Fredonia over the years.

#### *Lone Oak*

Lone Oak is in the eastern mountains of Sequatchie County, on Walden Ridge about 15 miles from Dunlap near the Hamilton County line. The area was originally opened to white settlement in 1823, but very few families moved to it before 1838. It is not known what family was the first to settle on the mountain, but it

is believed to have been a family named Miles. They came from North Carolina to enter a land grant in the valley area of Hamilton County. At this time Cherokee Indians occupied the area around what is now Chattanooga. After a very heated argument with a Cherokee, Miles killed the Indian by hitting him over the head with a lead bar wrapped in a cloth sack. Fearing for his life because of possible retaliation by the Cherokees, Miles fled with his family to Walden Ridge. They traveled in their wagon up Levi's Gap, but could not get the wagon up the cliffs. Finally they took the wagon apart and carried it over the cliffs piece by piece and reassembled it in two days. The Miles family selected a homestead at a site that eventually became Lone Oak.

Many months passed and a family named Winchester settled near the Miles family. For several years these were the only families on Walden Ridge. Even with the new families who came after the Cherokee Removal there were only about 20 families there when the Civil War broke out.

Travel in the area and to Dunlap or Chattanooga improved greatly when the Anderson Turnpike was opened in 1852. People driving hogs, cattle, or turkeys often came through the community on their way to the railroad in Chattanooga.

Three communities developed on the Sequatchie County side of the mountain, Top of the Mountain, Brown's Chapel, and Lone Oak. These communities gradually lost their distinction and finally the area became known as Lone Oak. The only other elementary school in the county is located there today.

### *Cagle*

Cagle is a small community on the mountain of the same name about ten miles from Dunlap. At one time the community was known as Mount Pleasant after the Methodist Church started there by John M. Whitlow around 1846. When the post office was opened in 1880, the name Cagle was chosen because there already was a Mount Pleasant in the state. This name commemorates the first white settlers, the Cagle family, who settled near the headwaters of Brush Creek. Among the first settlers

were the Clarks, the William Clemons family, the William McGlothen family, the Moffitts, the Seals family, and the Whitlows.

The first road built through the community was the Savage Road which terminated in McMinnville. The building of this road was part of a contest between Savage and a man named Hill, who was building a road across Fredonia Mountain (known after completion as Old Hill Road). Savage was the winner of the contest.

Many people at Cagle turned to farming and hunting as a living. Zack Elliott, for example, was a latter-day Davy Crockett who killed over 50 bears and 1000 deer in his lifetime. Logging was also a major industry and a number of saw mills sprang up over the area.

#### *Cartwright*

Located at the southern end of Sequatchie County near the Marion County line is the small community of Cartwright, about six or seven miles from Dunlap. It was named for G. P. Cartwright who operated a small store and was the first postmaster. He was no doubt responsible for choosing the name of the post office and thus the community.

At one time the Palmetto Coal Company had a large mining operation there. The company had a large commissary, hotel, and company housing for their workers. The mines were located on a nearby mountain, and the coal had to be brought down an incline by a huge drum that was operated by Dillard Tate. The mining operation prospered in the early 1920s, but there were periodic outbreaks of violence as the results of strikes and the operation of the mines with nonunion workers who often had to be protected by armed guards. The mines closed as a result of the economic depression that struck the coalfields in the '20s and '30s.

#### Leading Personalities

Sequatchie County has produced a number of men who have played prominent parts in the history of Tennessee and the United States. Besides the aforementioned William Stone and James

Standifer who served in the United States Congress, there were others such as T. B. Larimore, Arthur Thomas Stewart, and Thomas L. Stewart.

*Josiah McNair Anderson*

Josiah McNair Anderson, the second child of John and Betsy (McNair) Anderson, was born November 29, 1807, in what is now Pikeville, Tennessee. He married Nancy Lamb, daughter of Alexander Lamb of Bledsoe County. After becoming a brilliant lawyer, Anderson was elected to the state legislature in 1833. He served as Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1833 to 1837. He was elected to the State Senate in 1845 where he served until 1849. As a State Senator, Anderson served as Speaker of the Senate during his last term (1847–1849.)

In 1839 Anderson and George W. Williams were granted permission by the state to build a road across Walden Ridge from the Sequatchie Valley to Chattanooga to provide access to the railroad. In 1852 the road was completed and was known as the Old Anderson Pike. The "W" Road, part of the original road from Dunlap to Chattanooga, on Signal Mountain is still in use.

Anderson was elected as a Whig to the United States Congress in 1849. He served as a member of the House of Representatives until 1851 when he was defeated for reelection. He ran for the House of Representatives again in 1855, but was again defeated.

In 1861 Anderson was chosen as a delegate from Tennessee to the Peace Convention of Washington, which tried to settle the differences between the North and South before the Civil War erupted. The peace conference failed and Anderson expressed his sympathy for the Confederate cause. On November 5, 1861, Anderson was shot while giving a pro-Confederate speech to a group of citizens at the militia parade ground at Looney's Creek (Hicks Chapel) in Marion County. Following the shooting Anderson was taken to his home in Sequatchie County where he died three days later. He was buried in the family cemetery on his farm seven miles southeast of Dunlap (now Riley Blevin's farm).

At the time of his death, Anderson owned over 40,000 acres

of land in Sequatchie and Hamilton counties. He had 14 slaves, many blooded horses and hunting dogs, and a fine library of English classics and law books. He was one of the richest and most important men in Sequatchie County.

*T. B. Larimore*

Theophilus B. Larimore was born in obscurity on July 10, 1843, in Jefferson County in East Tennessee. While very young he moved with his family to what was to become Sequatchie County, near Dunlap. Although there were few occasions for formal education, Larimore studied hard on his own and by his sixteenth birthday was as knowledgeable as most young men his age who had done nothing but attend school all their lives. The opportunity to attend Mossy Creek Baptist College (now Carson-Newman College) at Jefferson City was presented him, and he finished his course of studies just as the Civil War broke out.

Larimore served as a scout in McClellan's Tennessee Calvary until captured by Federal troops in 1863. Given the choice of prison or the noncombatant oath he took the latter, but then was regarded as an enemy by both sides. To escape the situation he moved to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, with his mother and sister in 1864. He was baptized by an elder of the Church of Christ there and soon began preaching frequently for the congregation. Throughly convinced of the necessity for a restoration of New Testament Christianity, he determined to devote his life to that cause.

In 1866 he journeyed to Franklin College near Nashville to study under Tolbert Fanning, after which he taught and preached at several places in Tennessee and Alabama. On August 30, 1868, he married Esther Gresham of Lauderdale County, Alabama. When Esther inherited land from her mother's estate the couple moved to Alabama, built a house, and in 1871 established Mars Hill Academy.

Increasing requests for Larimore to help in evangelistic efforts across the country led to the closing of the academy in 1887. He devoted the remainder of his life to evangelism, traveling thousands of miles every year to all parts of the country and to

several foreign nations. His longest meeting occurred in Sherman, Texas, in 1894 where he preached twice on weekdays and three times on Sundays for twenty-one weeks and a day. Over two hundred persons were baptized. He often returned to Sequatchie County for meetings and to visit his grandmother's grave.

Esther Larimore died on March 4, 1907. On January 1, 1911, he married Emma Page of Nashville who was his companion until his death on March 18, 1929, of complications following a broken hip. During the last decade of his life he served churches in Washington, D.C., and in the San Francisco area. He died in Santa Ana, California.

T. B. Larimore has been hailed as the greatest evangelist of the second generation leaders of the Restoration Movement. Although no specific records were kept, he is believed to have converted over ten thousands persons. (This account is based on information provided by Douglas Foster.)

#### *Thomas Lawrence Stewart*

Thomas Lawrence Stewart was born in Walker County, Georgia, on November 20, 1866. He was the son of Absalom D. Stewart and Jane Bennett Stewart. He came to Tennessee when he was eight years old, and lived in Dunlap, where he acquired his elementary and high school education. After graduating from People's College at Pikeville, he "read law" in the office of Judge Byron Pope. Stewart was later admitted to the bar and started the practice of law. In Sequatchie County he was elected to the position of county trustee and served for 16 years. While in Dunlap he helped organize the Dunlap Methodist Church.

Stewart moved his family to Jasper, Tennessee, in order for his children to attend Pryor Institute, a prominent Methodist school. He later moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where he served as special counsel to the Alabama Power Company for four years. In 1915 Stewart moved his family to Winchester, Tennessee, and formed a law partnership with T. A. Embrey. In August of 1918 he was elected chancellor of the Twelfth Chancery Division. In 1928, the 16 chancellors of Tennessee formed an association and elected Chancellor Stewart as the first president. He retired from

this position on August 25, 1947, after almost 30 years of service. Chancellor Stewart liked to reminisce about the tedious travel of those days when he covered 15 counties, the largest chancery division in Tennessee.

He was very active in Tennessee politics, holding honorary positions as Democratic elector and a member of the Tennessee State Democratic Committee for at least two different terms. In 1916 he served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated Woodrow Wilson for a second term as president. Chancellor Stewart died in Winchester, Tennessee, on December 29, 1953, leaving a son to carry on the family fame.

#### *Arthur Thomas Stewart*

Tom Stewart, son of chancellor Thomas Lawrence Stewart, was born in Dunlap on January 11, 1892, and received his early education in the public schools of Sequatchie County. At about the age of ten he was enrolled at the Pryor Institute in Jasper, Tennessee. He attended Emory College at Oxford, Georgia, and law school at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He began his practice of law in Jasper and later moved to Birmingham, Alabama, for a year or so. Early in 1919 he moved his family to Winchester, Tennessee, where he became connected with the law firm of Judge George E. Banks. On September 29, 1923, Governor Austin Peay appointed Stewart district attorney general of the 18th judicial circuit of Tennessee. He was later elected to this office for two full terms of eight years and a short term of two years. During his service as attorney general, he served as the prosecuting attorney in the famous Scopes Trial at Dayton, Tennessee. In November of 1938 he was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Senator Nathan Bachman who had died in office. Four years later, in November of 1942, Stewart ran for reelection and, through the backing of the Crump political machine of Memphis, he was elected for a full six-year term. Stewart won the election in 1942 by carrying Shelby County, the only county in the state that he did carry. In 1948 Stewart again sought reelection to the senate and was thus involved in one of the most exciting elections in

the history of Tennessee politics. Crump dropped his support of Tom Stewart in favor of Judge John A. Mitchell of Cookeville, who had a good military record, because of Stewart's failure to give TVA adequate support in the Senate. Stewart, however, refused to pull out of the race. In the Democratic primary election three candidates ran for the senate nomination. They were Estes Kefauver of Chattanooga, Judge John A. Mitchell of Cookeville, and the incumbent senator, Thomas Stewart. When the election results were all tallied, Estes Kefauver had won the Democratic nomination with 152,489 votes. Stewart finished second with 111,787 and Mitchell was last with 78,586. Kefauver went on to win the senate position in the general election of 1948.

At the end of his term in January of 1949, Senator Stewart returned to his law practice in Nashville, Tennessee. During his political career, he held many honorary positions such as Democratic elector for the Third Congressional District in 1920, and he was named a delegate from the state at large to the Democratic conventions of 1940, 1944, 1948, and 1956. Senator Stewart died on October 10, 1972.

#### *Raymond H. Cooley*

The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest decoration that this country bestows upon its military heroes. Staff Sergeant Raymond H. Cooley who was born in Dunlap was the recipient of this great honor during World War II.

In the Philippine invasion of 1945 Cooley was a platoon guide detailed to wipe out a Japanese observation post that was defended by machine guns, rifles, and mortars. When his men were pinned down by two enemy machine guns, Cooley voluntarily advanced under heavy fire to within a few yards of one of the guns and attacked it with hand grenades. When the Japanese threw some of the grenades back at him before they exploded, Sergeant Cooley delayed his tosses after he had pulled the grenade pin. When one of these grenades found the mark the Japanese gun and its crew were destroyed. Cooley then moved toward the remaining gun, throwing grenades into enemy fox holes as he advanced. Inspired by his actions, his platoon joined him.

After he had armed another grenade and was preparing to throw it into the other machine-gun position, six enemy soldiers rushed him. Knowing he could not dispose of the armed grenade without injuring his comrades, who were in close combat with the enemy, Cooley deliberately covered the grenade with the stock of his gun and his body. As a result of this heroic act, Sergeant Cooley was severely wounded. On August 23, 1945, President Harry S Truman pinned the Congressional Medal of Honor on this courageous son of Sequatchie County.

Eighteen months later, Sergeant Raymond Cooley, who had been elected trustee of Marion County, was killed in an automobile accident near his home of South Pittsburg and was buried with full military honors. He was only 31 years old.

Other residents and former residents of Sequatchie County have also made contributions, not only to their county but to their state and country as well. Thomas A. Pope, a farmer of Mount Airy, served in the senate of the 37th General Assembly from 1871 to 1873. William Eggleston Anderson, another Sequatchie County farmer, served in the Tennessee State Legislature as a representative from 1885 to 1887. Charles Carpenter, a well-known local attorney, was appointed United States Commissioner for Sequatchie County in 1897. He had represented his district at the Chicago National Convention when Grover Cleveland was nominated for president in 1892. Moses E. Deakins served in the State Legislature as a representative of the Seventh Floterial District from 1895 to 1897. Alexander Hilliard, a physician from Dunlap, served in the 54th General Assembly from 1905 to 1907. Byron Pope, who practiced law in Dunlap, served in the state House of Representatives from 1935 to 1937 and in the state senate from 1937 to 1939. He later became clerk of the U.S. District Court in Chattanooga. Landon Calhoun McGinness, who practiced law in Dunlap and surrounding counties, served in the 71st General Assembly (1937-1939) and in the state senate in 1943. He resigned to accept the post of attorney for the U.S. Veterans Administration at Murfreesboro. George Washington Bryant, a Dunlap merchant, was a Democratic representative in the General Assembly from 1947 to 1951.

Thomas Mosley served in the State Legislature in 1965–1966. Sam McConnell served for many years as superintendent of schools in neighboring Hamilton County. Marlin Theophilus Phelps, born on a farm near Dunlap, became Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Thomas A. Greer, Jr., is presently serving as circuit judge for the 18th judicial circuit, part II. Harry D. Wagner is presently president of Motlow State Community College at Tullahoma.

### Local Legends

Sequatchie County has produced little in the area of literature but like many small counties across the state it does have its share of often interesting local legends and folklore.

#### *Hermit of the Horseshoe*

One such legend is the story of Charlie Hudson, the Hermit of the Horseshoe. The Horseshoe is a large wooded area on Signal Mountain, partly in Sequatchie and partly in Hamilton counties. Many stories circulated about a hermit who lived deep in the woods of the Horseshoe, subsisting mainly on nuts and berries that grew wild in the woods and apples and corn that he borrowed from orchards and fields at the edge of the woods. It was thought that he probably slept in semicaves or under bluffs, called rock houses.

Solitary footprints along the roads deep in the woods were spotted by people as early as 1945. As the years went by the stories of the hermit were almost forgotten until 1959. Cecil Hickman and Tommy Johnson were driving slowly down the main ridge of the Horseshoe that summer when they saw a scraggly scarecrowlike figure dart into the nearby brush. They dashed from their jeep and, after a long and exhausting search, finally caught him. Tommy Johnson recognized the hermit as Charlie Hudson. Charlie was very scared and begged them to let him go. After a short while, he calmed down enough to tell his story. He was hiding from the Democrats because a Democratic sheriff of Sequatchie County had threatened to put him in jail at Dunlap

if he kept on running off and hiding in the woods. Cecil and Tommy told Charlie that the Democratic sheriff had lost the last election and were finally able to persuade him to meet them near the same spot the next day to give him a new pair of shoes, and some clothes and canned food. Charlie's clothes were in tatters, his only food was parched corn, and his shoes were held in place by baling wire.

Charlie met the men the next day and took them to his abode, which was a crude hut built from discarded sawmill slabs with a series of large tin cans that served as a chimney. Charlie told them that he had two other huts hidden in the woods, but this was his favorite because it was the closest to the largest garbage dumps and the best summer gardens where he would occasionally steal a watermelon or other produce.

Tommy Johnson and Cecil Hickman allowed Charlie Hudson to return to his hermit life-style since that was what he wanted most of all. He was content with his life of solitude and his strange existence. He said that the only thing he wanted that he did not have was a woman to share his life with him, but only if she would be willing to live with him and share his life in the woods.

No one seems to know what exactly happened to the Hermit of the Horseshoe, Charlie Hudson. It is most likely that he died out there somewhere in the woods, just as he would have wanted. Then again, maybe he is not dead at all, but still wandering in the woods in the Horseshoe.

### *The Lost Gold*

It seems that every area has some legend of a buried treasure just waiting for the right person to come along at the right time and discover it.

This story goes back to the Civil War around the time of Wheeler's Raid. The details are very sketchy, however, so it is difficult to provide specifics or to check on the validity of the details. Supposedly a group of four men robbed a bank in Winchester or Manchester and were returning with their loot across the mountains above Dunlap. From the mountain top they could see great clouds of smoke drifting upward on the other side of

the valley. The smoke began down on the valley floor and rose to the very top of Walden Ridge, as if some giant serpent had snaked its way up the mountain and been set ablaze. The men also heard shooting and lots of loud thunderous explosions. They did not know what was happening and not wishing to take any chances they decided to bury their loot and return for it later. They surveyed the surrounding countryside and spotted a peculiar-looking tree at the base of some small cliffs. It was here that they buried their stash of gold and silver which was purported to be between \$10,000 and \$30,000. Two of the men buried the money while the other two held the horses.

After burying the money, they then proceeded innocently down the old mountain trail into the valley below. They had every intention of returning to the remote mountain road and claiming their ill-gotten treasure, but time and circumstances made it impossible. The men were caught and forced to join the army; during the course of the war the two men who had buried the money were killed.

Time drifted on and finally only one member of the gang was left. As he was dying he told his nephew the story of the robbery, how the gold had been buried and gave him a map to show the location of the hidden treasure. His nephew was a Whitwell dentist named Napoleon Bonaparte Moore from Marion County, who traveled throughout the valley. "Doc" Moore took the map and organized an expedition to search for the treasure, probably some time around the 1930s. Moore employed seven or eight men from Dunlap to help him in his search; William Hobbs was foreman of the crew. "Doc" led his men up the mountain as they carried their picks and shovels and he was entirely sure that he would be a rich man when they came back down. The area, however, was not the same as depicted on his map. The surrounding terrain had been changed by a washout when the creeks on top had swollen, carrying many boulders and trees down the mountain slopes. "Doc" concluded that some of the huge rocks that had been moved by this barrage of water were covering his treasure.

For months the men blasted and dug on the mountain, actually going through solid rock at the exact location marked on

the map. They dug a hole deep in the rock that still can be seen today. "Doc" Moore would sit and watch the men as they carried rock out of the hole. At times he would stop the work and go down into the hole and look around. One morning "Doc" Moore arrived and went down into the pit; he came out very angry, accusing some of the men of coming back that night and stealing his treasure, particularly blaming William Hobbs, the foreman. Moore called off all the work and sent everybody home. Many people believed that Hobbs had indeed found the treasure since he shortly became the proud owner of a new pair of false teeth.

The years went by and this was all slowly forgotten except by a few older citizens who would often tell the story to amuse their children and grandchildren. Did someone find the treasure or had it ever really existed at all? No one knows the answer to these questions but the pit that "Doc" Moore's men dug is still there, even though it is full of leaves and dirt. The old ladder they used to go down into it still sticks up through the debris. Maybe the treasure is still there just waiting for someone to find it. It really could be.

### Shape of the Future

Over the years Sequatchie County has resisted change. Nevertheless change has come to the people of Sequatchie County. Schools have brought a change of attitude and a desire to know about the rest of the country and the world. Paved roads have brought the automobile and made travel to surrounding counties and cities desirable and possible. Automobiles and trucks have ended the days of the cattle, hog, and turkey drives across the mountains. Electricity has brought time and labor-saving appliances and increased the "daylight" hours. The world wars have widened the horizons of many from Sequatchie County who served in the armed forces. Many were no longer happy and content in Dunlap or on the farm after they had seen Paris or London.

Sequatchie County's future looks brighter than at any other time in its past. The population of the county and of Dunlap are both on the increase. From 1960 to 1970 the population of Se-

quatchie County increased from 5915 to 6331, an increase of 7 percent. By 1980 the population had increased to 8605, a 35.9 percent increase over the 1970 level. People are moving into Sequatchie County from other areas while fewer natives of the county are leaving. From 1965 to 1970, Sequatchie County saw a net outmigration of some 438 people or 6.9 percent of the 1970 population. The period 1970–1978 showed a reversal of this trend, with immigration estimated at over 1000 people.

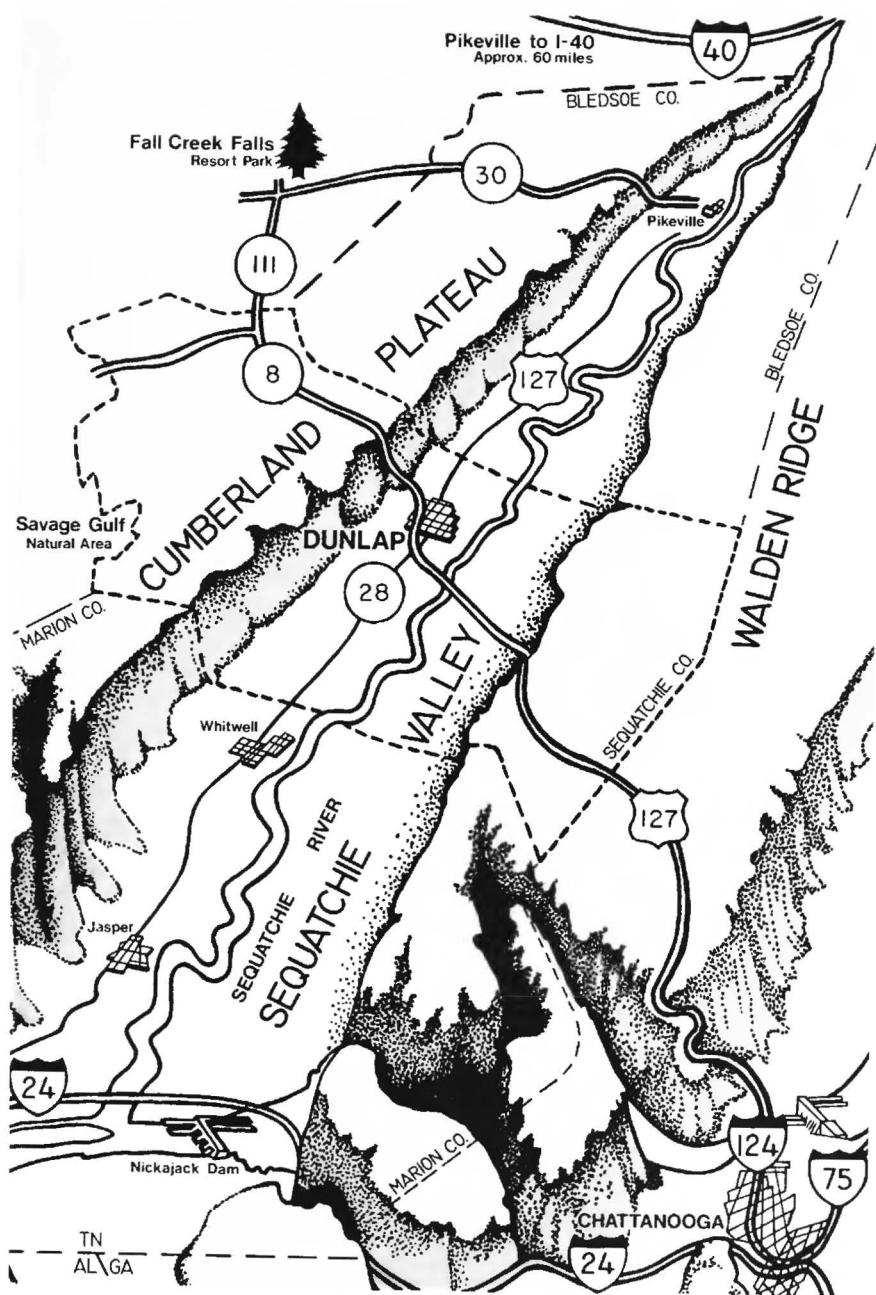
Along with the growth of population there have been significant changes in employment patterns in Sequatchie County. From 1960 to 1970 employment of Sequatchie County residents increased from 1871 to 2069. During this period agriculture, forestry, and fisheries experienced a 50 percent decline in employment, from 258 down to 125 in 1970. Mining remained relatively constant during this period at 138 employees, while manufacturing increased slightly from 777 to 819. The major change in total employment can be seen in the nonbasic sector, which increased from 700 to 987, an increase of 41 percent. This sector consists of wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services, government, construction, transportation, and public utilities. Strong population growth between 1970 and 1980 was accompanied by an estimated increase in resident employment of 78.8 percent to a 1980 level of 3700. Employment in the year 2000 is projected by TVA at 5500, an increase of 1800 jobs over the 1980 level. The major effect of this increase will be felt primarily in the manufacturing and nonbasic sectors.

In 1970 (the most recent year for which figures are available), 903 Sequatchie County residents commuted to work in other counties, while 219 residents from other counties commuted to work in Sequatchie County. Six hundred and forty-eight of the outcommuters traveled into Chattanooga and the remainder to Hamilton County, while almost 100 workers traveled daily to Van Buren County. Minor flows of outcommuters traveled to jobs in Bledsoe, Grundy, and Marion counties. The primary source of incommuting workers was Bledsoe County, with 112 workers. Minor flows were reported from Hamilton, Marion, Grundy, and

Rhea counties. As more jobs are made available in Sequatchie County this negative trend will be reversed.

The ratio of retail sales to income shows a rather steady decline from 1963 to 1972, dropping from a high of 56 percent in 1963 to only 38.2 percent in 1973. This results from the fact that many Sequatchie County residents are drawn to Chattanooga where they spend a rather large percentage of their income. Merchants of Dunlap have begun to address this problem with the formation of a local merchants association to encourage the populace to buy locally. Many have also started a renovation program called Operation Townlift.

The recent past has been a period of rapid change in the socioeconomic structure of Sequatchie County. Earlier decades of small population increases have now been replaced by recent years of large increases. Employment is now growing at a faster rate, with fairly rapid increases in labor participation rates. All these factors point to an era of unprecedented growth in Sequatchie County and the city of Dunlap.



## Appendices

### *A. Official Census Figures*

1860	2120	1920	3632	1980	8605
1870	2335	1930	4047		
1880	2565	1940	5038		
1890	3027	1950	5685		
1900	3326	1960	5915		
1910	4202	1970	6331		

### *B. 1983 County Officials*

Sessions Judge	Hollis Barker
Circuit Court Clerk	Patsy Frizzell
County Court Clerk	Jewell Henson
Clerk and Master	Sara Goins
County Trustee	Larry S. Lockhart
Road Supervisor	Donnie L. Johnson
Tax Assessor	Ivan Condra
Register	Herman Grant
Sheriff	Roy Newman
Superintendent of Schools	Myrna Barker
County School Board	Dexter Tate (Chairman)
Buddy Finley	Paul Powell
Stephen Greer	Ann Smith
Fletcher Lewis	Steve Swanger

### *C. 1983 Dunlap Officials*

Mayor	Danny Wallace
Commissioners	Larry W. Hixson
	Dr. R. D. Shepherd
	Buddy Finley
	Peggy Hobbs

*D. Sequatchie Countians Killed in the World Wars***World War I**

Anderson Elliott	Herbert Layne
Lida M. Hackworth	Willie K. Swanger
Mack Harvey	Claude C. Williams
Victor S. Johnson	

**World War II**

Walter L. Allan	James E. Lowery
Thomas H. Camp	Thomas L. Merriman
Grady Davis	Ralph E. Moore
James Fultz	Roy Ownsby
Paul W. Heard	Clyde J. Smith
Lloyd O. Hixson	J. C. Swanger
Deler D. Johnson	Woodrow W. Von Rohr
Edwin W. Kilgore	Osbin Worley

## *Suggested Readings*

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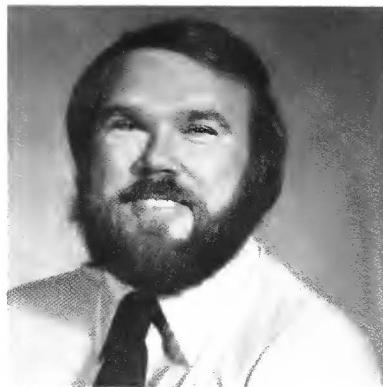
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### *About the Author*

Henry Ray Camp was born May 31, 1950, in Dunlap, Tennessee, the only son of Forrest Henry Camp and the former Bobbie Ruth Austin. After the death of his mother he was reared by his paternal grandparents, Lawrence and Myrtle Camp, and graduated in 1968 from Sequatchie County High School. In 1973 Mr. Camp graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, with a degree in Education, History. While a student he was voted into a number of honorary societies, including the prestigious Alpha Society. Since 1973 Mr. Camp has taught American history and government at Sequatchie County High School and is chairman of the Social Studies Department. In 1976 he received a Masters degree in counseling and in 1981 completed requirements for certification in administration and supervision. In May of 1977 Mr. Camp was elected to the Dunlap City Commission, serving for four years. He has also served on the Sequatchie Valley Planning Commission. Mr. Camp was recently appointed county historian by the county commission and also serves on the Committee of Public Records, which preserves county records of historical significance. He is a member of the Tennessee Congress of American Historians, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Tennessee Literary Arts Association. He resides with his wife, the former Natalie Ann Jenkins, in Dunlap.